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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The provisional agenda presented for adoption is as follows:

1. Election of the President.

2. Election of other officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Credentials of delegations.

5. Accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, admission of observers.

6. Programme and budget:

(a) Need for, modalities for, costs involved and feasibility of the regional coordination units;

(b) Proposal on the ways of improving the budgeting and reporting process;

(c) Performance report of the Convention's trust funds in 1999;

(d) Report on the performance of the trust fund for supplementary activities in 1999;

(e) Audited financial statements for the Convention's trust funds in 1999;

(f) Performance report of the Convention's trust funds for the biennium 2000-2001 as of 30 June 2000;

(g) Report on the performance of the trust fund for supplementary activities in the biennium 2000-2001 as of 30 June 2000;

(h) Report on the status of contributions to the Convention's trust funds for the biennium 2000-2001 as of 30 November 2000.

7. Implementation of the Convention:

(a) Review of reports on implementation of affected country Parties of regions other than Africa, including on the participatory process, and on experience gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes;

(b) Review of the report on progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in regions other than Africa;

(c) Review of reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes of affected country Parties of regions other than Africa, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention;

(d) Review of information provided by organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention;

(e) Review of available information regarding the financing of the implementation of the Convention by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2(b), of the Convention;

(f) Review of the report of the secretariat on progress made by affected country Parties in the implementation of the Convention;

(g) Review of the report of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism on their role and results obtained in facilitation consultative processes to negotiate and elaborate partnership agreements based on national, subregional and regional action programmes;

(h) Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention;

(i) Consideration of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention, with a view to adopting one;

(j) Consideration of a draft declaration on the commitment to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention.

8. Committee on Science and Technology:

(a) Review, pursuant to article 24, paragraph 2(d), of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it;

(b) Consideration of those specific conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee on Science and Technology relating to affected country Parties' experiences and constraints in the implementation of action programmes;

(c) Maintenance of the roster of experts;

(d) Creation of an ad hoc panel or panels of experts, if necessary, with their terms of reference.

9. Global Mechanism:

(a) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d), of the Convention, of the report on policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it;

(b) Review, pursuant to the same article, of the report of the Global Mechanism on its operational strategy.

10. Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies.

11. Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties: open dialogue sessions.

12. Outstanding items:

(a) Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure;

(b) Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward;

(c) Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6, of the Convention.

13. Programme of work for the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties.

14. Report of the session.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

Venue

2. By its decision 22/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided that the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 4) should be held at the site of the Convention secretariat in the event that no Party made an offer to host that session and meet the additional financial cost. The session will be opened by the Executive Secretary at the International Congress Centre Bundeshaus at Bonn, Germany, on Monday, 11 December 2000.

Logistic arrangements

3. A few weeks before the opening of COP 4, the secretariat will distribute an information note detailing registration and security procedures, as well as other logistic arrangements for the session.

Participants

4. In accordance with article 36, paragraph 2, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), for each State or regional economic integration organization which ratifies, accepts or approves the Convention or accedes thereto after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the Convention enters into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit with the Depositary of the relevant instrument. Consequently, the Parties as of the opening of COP 4 on 11 December will be the States and regional economic integration organizations that have deposited their instruments by 12 September 2000. Those that deposit their instruments after 12 September 2000 and by 23 September 2000 will become Parties during COP 4. Those that do so after 23 September 2000 will not become Parties until after the closure of the session but can participate in the session as observers, along with United Nations specialized agencies, accredited intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. Relevant information on the status of ratifications is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/INF.2.

Agenda

5. By its decision 4/COP.3, the COP decided to include in the agenda for its fourth session certain selected items and other standing items on its agenda. These have been taken into account in the provisional agenda prepared for COP 4, in addition to issues arising from other decisions.

Documentation

6. A list of documents for the session and other documents of relevance is provided in annex I. In addition to normal distribution, official COP 4 documents as well as full reports from country Parties will be made available on the secretariat's World Wide Web site at the following address on the Internet: http://www.unccd.int.

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[1] For decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its third session, see ICCD/COP(3)/20/Add.1.

1. Election of the President

7. Rule 22 of the rules of procedure adopted by the COP (decision 1/COP.1[1] as amended by decision 20/COP.2[2]) provides for the election of the President from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary will call for the election of the President.

2. Election of other officers

8. Pursuant to rule 22 of the rules of procedure (as amended by decision 20/COP.2), nine Vice-Presidents and the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology, who, with the President, are to serve as the Bureau of the session, shall be elected from the representatives of the Parties present at the session, in a manner that every geographical region shall be represented by at least two members. The President will call for the election of these officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

9. The COP will have before it the provisional agenda (see section I, above) to consider for adoption. A tentative schedule of work for the session, on which the subsections below elaborate, is contained in annex II.

Purpose of the session

10. The Conference of the Parties, at its third session, adopted a decision on its programme of work (decision 4/COP.3), which included standing as well as selected items for discussion at COP 4. These items have been incorporated in the provisional agenda. The Convention provides, in article 22, paragraph 3(a), that the COP shall regularly review the implementation of the Convention and the functioning of its institutional arrangements. The organization of work of the session is designed to facilitate such activities, focusing attention on outstanding issues requiring resolution.

Opening meeting

11. As to the structure of the opening plenary, the COP may wish to consider the following scenario. The President would make a statement after his or her election. Statements would be made on behalf of regional groups, to be followed by an opportunity for statements by representatives of United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations and one representative of non-governmental organizations. The Executive Secretary would then present an overview of issues before COP 4, introduce the documents prepared by the secretariat, and present a status report on ratifications of, or accessions to, the Convention.

Establishment of a Committee of the Whole and allocation of its tasks

12. The practice followed at the previous sessions of the Conference of the Parties was to establish a sessional Committee of the Whole (COW), chaired by a Vice-President of the COP and open to participation of all delegations. This could be done at COP 4. The Committee of the Whole would recommend decisions on outstanding issues for adoption by the COP. Its Chair would have the authority to delegate work, as appropriate, to drafting groups. Accordingly,

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[1] For decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, see ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1.

[2] For decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its second session, see ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1.

the COP may wish to establish a Committee of the Whole at its opening plenary and to designate its Chair. The COP could allocate to the Committee of the Whole the following items: adjustments to the programme and budget for the biennium; programme of work of the ad hoc working group to review reports submitted by Parties; consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to review the implementation of the Convention; consideration of an additional regional implementation annex; consideration of a draft declaration on commitments to enhance the implementation of the Convention; the rule of procedure not yet agreed upon, referred to below; procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions of implementation; consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures; and any other issue.

Committee on Science and Technology

13. The Committee on Science and Technology (CST) is tentatively scheduled to meet from 12 to 14 December. In accordance with decision 14/COP.3, the secretariat has prepared ICCD/COP(4)/CST/1 containing a provisional annotated agenda for the Committee's work, as well as other documents needed for its deliberations, which are listed in annex I.

Initial segment

14. It is proposed in the tentative schedule that COP 4 be divided into two segments. During the initial segment from 11 to 21 December, in addition to the CST meeting, the Committee of the Whole would initiate its work in accordance with the agenda of the COP.

15. The ad hoc working group on the review of the implementation of the Convention, established by decision 4/COP.3, is tentatively scheduled to meet from 11 to 15 December 2000.

16. The plenary would meet on 21 December to hear reports from the Committee of the Whole and the CST, to take all possible decisions on issues before the COP, to review the organization of work for the second week, and to provide for further meetings of the Committee of the Whole as appropriate.

Special segment on Convention implementation

17. At the special segment on 18 and 19 December, Parties with representation at the appropriate level would have an opportunity to review and make statements on the implementation of the Convention.

18. Decision 11/COP.1 provides that reports by Parties, together with advice and information provided by the Committee on Science and Technology and the Global Mechanism consistent with their respective mandates and such other reports as the Conference of the Parties may call for, shall constitute the basis of the review of the implementation by the Conference of the Parties.

19. By its decision 4/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties decided to review, at its fourth session, the reports on implementation of affected country Parties of regions other than Africa. In accordance with decision 11/COP.1, the secretariat prepared a compilation of summaries and a synthesis of the reports received from Parties, setting out the trends emerging in the implementation of the Convention.

20. By decision 4/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties decided to review also the implementation of the Convention, on the basis of submissions made by the developed country Parties, by United Nations organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on their activities in support of the

preparation of action programmes, which would also be undertaken during the special segment. A compilation and a synthesis of such submissions prepared by the secretariat are contained in FCCC/COP(4)/3/Add.4 and FCCC/COP(4)/3/Add.5.

21. The review of the report from the ad hoc working group on the review of the implementation of the Convention could also be undertaken during the special segment. The special segment could take decisions on any issues remaining outstanding after the first week.

Parallel event

22. An interparliamentary round table on the contribution parliaments can make to the implementation of the Convention is planned for 12 and 13 December 2000. It would involve the participation of parliamentarians from a number of countries. It is anticipated that any outcome from the round table would be communicated to the COP for consideration.

Concluding plenary

23. The concluding plenary of COP 4 will take any decisions not previously adopted. It will also have before it for adoption the report on credentials to be submitted by the Bureau. Finally, it will decide upon the date and venue of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties, taking account of:

(a) Article 22, paragraph 4, of the Convention, which provides that, unless otherwise decided by the COP, the second, third and fourth ordinary sessions shall be held yearly, and thereafter, ordinary sessions shall be held every two years;

(b) Rule 4, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, which provides that, at each ordinary session, the COP shall decide on the date and duration of the next ordinary session and that the COP should endeavour not to hold such sessions at a time which would make the attendance of a significant number of delegations difficult;

(c) Rule 3 of the rules of procedure, which states that the sessions of the COP shall take place at the seat of the secretariat, unless the COP decides otherwise or other appropriate arrangements are made by the secretariat in consultation with the Parties;

(d) Decision 1/COP.2, which provides that the fifth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties shall take place in the year 2001, and that, thereafter, ordinary sessions shall be held every two years;

(e) Any offers to host the fifth session and cover the incremental costs thereof.

24. The proposed schedule allows for the concluding plenary on 22 December. Accordingly, all negotiations should be concluded by 21 December.

Times of meetings

25. The tentative schedule aims to make the best use of the facilities available during normal working hours. No scheduling or budgetary provision has been made for evening or weekend sessions. Consistent with local working hours and to avoid incurring overtime expenses, the normal working hours of COP 4 will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. No provision has been made for more than two meetings to be held with interpretation services at any one time.

4. Credentials of delegations

26. Rule 19 of the rules of procedure provides: "The credentials of representatives as well as the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat if possible not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the session. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat. The credentials shall be issued either by the head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization." Rule 20 of the rules of procedure provides: "The Bureau of any session shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Conference of the Parties for decision." In addition, rule 21 provides: "Representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the session, pending a decision by the Conference of the Parties to accept their credentials."

5. Accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, admission of observers

27. Article 22, paragraph 7 of the Convention provides: "The United Nations, its specialized agencies and any State member thereof or observers thereto not Party to the Convention, may be represented at sessions of the Conference of the Parties as observers. Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention, and which has informed the Permanent Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a session of the Conference of the Parties as an observer, may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present object." Rule 7 of the rules of procedure contains provisions to similar effect.

28. Decision 26/COP.1 contains provisions on accrediting non-governmental organizations and according observer status to intergovernmental organizations to the first and subsequent sessions of the COP. In accordance with these procedures, a list of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations newly proposed for accreditation at the COP is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/9.

6. Programme and budget

29. The Convention, in article 22, paragraph 2(g), calls on the Conference of the Parties to approve a programme and budget for its activities, including those of its subsidiary bodies, and to undertake necessary arrangements for their financing. At its third session, the COP approved the revised core budget of the Convention for the biennium 2000-2001 and requested the Executive Secretary to propose to COP 4 any adjustments that might be needed. The Executive Secretary will submit information in due course on any adjustments that may be needed to the Convention's programme and budget as adopted by decision 9/COP.3.

(a) Need for, modalities for, costs involved and feasibility of the regional coordination units

30. By the decision 9/COP.3, the Executive Secretary was requested to report to the COP on the need for, feasibility of, and modalities for regional coordination units and the costs involved, with a view to enabling the Conference of the Parties to take a decision. The report of the Executive Secretary is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.1.

(b) Proposal on the ways of improving the budgeting and reporting process

31. By the same decision, the Executive Secretary was also requested to submit a proposal on how the budgeting and reporting process could be improved. The report of the Executive Secretary is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.2.

(c) Performance report of the Convention's trust funds in 1999

32. By decision 5/COP.3, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report on the financial performance of the Convention budget. The report of the Executive Secretary is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.3.

(d) Report on the performance of the trust fund for supplementary activities in 1999

(e) Audited financial statements for the Convention's trust funds in 1999

(f) Performance report of the Convention's trust funds for the biennium 2000-2001 as of 30 June 2000

(g) Report on the performance of the trust fund for supplementary activities in the biennium 2000-2001 as of 30 June 2000

(h) Report on the status of contributions to the Convention's trust funds for the biennium 2000-2001 as of 30 November 2000

33. Information on the utilization of the supplementary fund is provided in ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.4, while similar information for the biennium 2000-2001 is provided in ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.8. The final audited financial statement for the trust funds in 1999 is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.5. The status of the contributions to the trust funds for the biennium 2000-2001 as of 30 November 2000 is presented in ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.9.

34. Pursuant to resolution 52/194 of 18 December 1997 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which endorsed the institutional linkage between the UNCCD secretariat and the Secretariat of the United Nations, the Secretary-General made a proposal to institute a transitional arrangement for administrative support to the secretariat of UNCCD for 1998-2000. Decision 3/COP.1 provides that, in order for the secretariat to enjoy the administrative and financial autonomy necessary to ensure efficient servicing of the Convention and its implementation, it should not be fully integrated into the work programme and management structure of any particular department or programme of the United Nations. By the same decision, the Conference of the Parties decided to review these arrangements no later than at its fourth session, in consultation with the Secretary-General, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties. ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.6 contains the report on the performance of the Convention's trust funds for the biennium 2000-2001 as at 30 June 2000 and the report on the administrative support provided to UNCCD by the Secretariat of the United Nations.

V. Implementation of the Convention

35. Pursuant to article 22, paragraphs 2(a) and 2(b), and article 26, of the Convention, the COP is to review implementation of the UNCCD and its institutional arrangements. Participants will have an opportunity to conduct such a review during the special segment on Convention implementation.

36. By its decision 6/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish an ad hoc working group to review and analyse in depth, at the fourth session, reports submitted at its third session and reports that will be submitted at its fourth session in order to draw conclusions and propose concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention. By the same decision, the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD was requested to make all necessary arrangements for the above-mentioned ad hoc working group to fulfil its mandate and to meet at the fourth session.

(c) *Review of reports on implementation of affected country Parties of regions other than Africa, including on the participatory process, and on experience gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes*

37. By its decision 8/COP.3, the COP decided to review, at its fourth session, the reports of affected country Parties of regions other than Africa. In accordance with procedures detailed in decision 11/COP.1, the secretariat has compiled a summary of such reports and a synthesis setting out the trends emerging in the implementation of the Convention. These are contained in ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.1, ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.2 and ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.3.

(d) *Review of the report on progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in regions other than Africa*

38. By the same decision, 8/COP.3, the COP also decided to consider at its fourth session the progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in regions other than Africa. The relevant information is contained in the annexes to ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.1, ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.2 and ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.3.

(e) *Review of reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes of affected country Parties of regions other than Africa, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention*

39. By its decision 4/COP.3, the COP decided to review the measures undertaken by developed country Parties in assisting the preparation and implementation of action programmes of affected country Parties of regions other than Africa. A compilation of reports received from developed country Parties is provided in ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.4.

(f) *Review of information provided by organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention*

40. By the same decision, 8/COP.3, the COP decided to review the activities of United Nations organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes. The secretariat has prepared ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.5, which contains the information provided by such organizations.

(g) *Review of available information regarding the financing of the implementation of the Convention by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2(b), of the Convention*

41. By its decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided to include, as a standing item on its agenda, a review of available information on the financing of the Convention by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2(b). The information received by the secretariat is compiled in ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.5.

42. There will also be an opportunity during the special segment on Convention implementation for agencies and institutions to give information on the support

they have provided, including financial support, to affected country Parties in the implementation of the Convention by those Parties.

(f) Review of the report of the secretariat on progress made by affected country Parties in the implementation of the Convention

43. Decision 5/COP.3 requested the secretariat to provide for the forthcoming sessions of the Conference of the Parties a synthesis by each subregion, with the aim of elaborating a comparative document on the progress made by affected country Parties in the implementation of the Convention. The information provided is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.1, ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.2 and ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.3, while ICCD/COP(4)/3 provides information on the secretariat's activities in assisting developing country Parties in the implementation of the Convention at subregional and regional levels.

(g) Review of the report of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism on their role and results obtained in facilitating consultative processes to negotiate and conclude partnership agreements based on national, subregional and regional action programmes

44. By its decision 5/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention, to effectively assist affected African country Parties, upon request, in facilitating the convocation of consultative processes in order to negotiate and conclude partnership agreements based on national, subregional and regional action programmes. The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism were also requested to report at each session on their role to facilitate these processes and the results obtained. Their report is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.6.

(h) Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention

45. By its decision 6/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and other interested institutions and organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to submit written proposals and suggestions on the need for the establishment of a committee to review the implementation of the Convention, in order to further develop the existing review system and to consider and take a decision on this issue at its fourth session and, if necessary, at its fifth session. The secretariat was further requested to compile, summarize and circulate these submissions, so as to facilitate consideration from the COP, and these are contained in ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.7.

(i) Consideration of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention, with a view to adopting it

46. By its decision 7/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties invited the countries of central and eastern Europe to continue, under the auspices of the Bureau of the COP, the process of consultations on the draft additional regional implementation annex, with a view to adopting it at its fourth session. In accordance with articles 31 and 32 of the Convention, the draft annex is before the COP for adoption, and it is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.8.

(j) Consideration of a draft declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention

47. By its decision 8/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties stressed the necessity to formulate, for consideration and adoption at its fourth session, a declaration on the commitments to enhance implementation of the obligations of the Convention and invited all Parties, relevant international and non-governmental organizations to submit written proposals and/or suggestions for the text of the declaration. By the same decision, the Executive Secretary

was requested to take appropriate action for the formulation of a draft declaration and to circulate it, together with a compilation and a synthesis of submissions received from Parties. This is presented in ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.9 for discussion and any action the COP may wish to take.

8. Committee on Science and Technology

(a) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d), of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it

48. Pursuant to decision 9/COP.1, the review of the CST report constitutes a standing item on the agenda of the COP. The report of the Committee will describe the CST work programme for the period after COP 4. The CST will also be transmitting to the COP draft decisions resulting from the deliberations at its fourth session. The COP may wish to discuss the programme of work, make suggestions for its revision and provide any necessary guidance to the CST.

(b) Consideration of some specific conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee on Science and Technology relating to affected country Parties' experiences and constraints in the implementation of action programmes

49. Decision 11/COP.1 provides that the reports by Parties, together with advice and information provided by the CST and the Global Mechanism in accordance with their respective mandates, and such other reports as the Conference of the Parties may call for, will constitute the basis of the review of the implementation by the Conference of the Parties. The secretariat prepared ICCD/COP(4)/CST/5 to facilitate the review of reports from country Parties by the CST.

(c) Maintenance of the roster of experts

50. The Convention, in article 24, paragraph 2, provides that the COP will establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields. Procedures related to the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts were adopted by the COP by decision 18/COP.1. By decisions 13/COP.2 and 15/COP.3, Parties were invited to supplement their submissions to the secretariat for inclusion in the roster to ensure that under-represented areas were addressed, in particular by: (a) making the roster more balanced in terms of gender; and (b) ensuring better representation of relevant disciplines. By decision 15/COP.3 the Parties and the secretariat were also requested to inform the CST on the use that has been made of the roster of independent experts. The updated roster and the report on the use made of it are contained in ICCD/COP(4)/5 and Add.1. In accordance with decision 13/COP.2, the roster is being made available also in electronic form on the secretariat World Wide Web site at the following address: http://www.unccd.int/cop/cst/search.php.

(d) Creation of an ad hoc panel or panels of experts, if necessary, with their terms of reference

51. Article 24, paragraph 3, of the UNCCD provides for the creation of ad hoc panels as necessary by the Conference of the Parties. By decisions 12/COP.3 and 14/COP.3, the COP appointed an ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge and an ad hoc panel on early warning systems. After considering the report of the CST, the COP may wish to consider appointing ad hoc panels, including reappointing those already established, as necessary, in accordance with the procedures contained in decision 17/COP.1 for the establishment of ad hoc panels.

9. Global Mechanism

(a) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d), of the Convention, the report on policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it

52. By its decision 9/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties requested the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to report at the fourth session on the activities undertaken, including progress in implementing the recommendations contained in the same decision. The report from the Global Mechanism is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/4.

53. By the same decision, the COP invited the Facilitation Committee of the Global Mechanism to explore the possibility of inviting a representative of non-governmental organizations to attend its meetings and to report to the Conference of the Parties on the decision taken on this issue. The Managing Director of the Global Mechanism was further requested to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session on the activities undertaken by the Facilitation Committee, the decisions taken and results obtained in implementing them. The information on these issues is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/4/Add.2.

(b) Review, pursuant to the same article, of the report of the Global Mechanism on its operational strategy

54. By decision 9/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties decided to give further consideration to the operational strategy of the Global Mechanism at its fourth session and requested its Managing Director to prepare a document on the operational strategy based on comments, suggestions and proposals made during the third session, as well as on written submissions received by the Parties, and to submit that document for consideration with a compendium of submissions.

55. By the same decision, the COP also recommended that the Global Mechanism develop, as part of the operational strategy for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session, an information and communication strategy that would aim to facilitate contact with Parties and other actors, increase awareness of the Convention and promote participation in its implementation. The report from the Global Mechanism on its operational strategy is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/4/Add.1.

10. Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies

56. Pursuant to decision 9/COP.1, the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other conventions in accordance with article 8 and article 22, paragraph 2(i), of the Convention shall be included as a standing item on the agenda of the Conference of the Parties.

57. By its decision 17/COP.3, the Executive Secretary was requested to report to the fourth session on the implementation of the different recommendations contained in the same decision, 17/COP.3, bearing in mind the relevant resolutions and/or decisions of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The report of the Executive Secretary is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/6.

11. Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties: open dialogue sessions

58. By decision 27/COP.1, the COP requested that additional open dialogue sessions organized by non-governmental organizations be included within the

official programme of work of future sessions of the COP, and that the secretariat of the Convention make every effort to facilitate inclusion of at least two such half-day sessions within the official programme of work. Such sessions would be organized in consultation with the secretariat and the Bureau of the COP through the President. Half-day sessions have been tentatively scheduled for the mornings of 19 and 20 December 2000.

12. Outstanding items

(a) Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure

59. Article 22, paragraph 2(e), of the Convention, provides that the Conference of the Parties shall "agree upon and adopt, by consensus, rules of procedure ... for itself and any subsidiary bodies". At its first session, by decision 1/COP.1, the COP adopted its rules of procedure, with the exception of some paragraphs contained in rules 22, 31 and 47. The text of rules 22 and 31 was amended by decision 20/COP.2. By decision 21/COP.2, the COP decided also to further consider paragraph 1 of rule 47 of the rules of procedure, not yet agreed upon, and the text resulting from this decision was provided in the annex to ICCD/COP(3)/19.

60. By its decision 19/COP.3, the President of the third session of the Conference of the Parties was requested to continue consultations on this outstanding issue and to report to the COP at its fourth session on the results of his consultations. This is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/7.

(b) Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward

(c) Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6, of the Convention

61. By decision 20/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties decided, in accordance with articles 27 and 28 of the Convention, to convene during its fourth session an open-ended ad hoc group of experts to examine and make recommendations, taking into account ICCD/COP(3)/7 and 19, and in the light of the progress of the negotiations on the same matters in other environmental conventions, on procedures for the resolution of questions of implementation and annexes on arbitration and conciliation procedures. The open-ended group of experts is tentatively scheduled to meet on 20 and 21 December 2000.

62. By the same decision, the COP invited Parties to communicate their views on how to take this matter forward and requested the secretariat to compile these views for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session. The secretariat was further requested to update the information contained in the reports submitted to the COP at its third session, as necessary, to reflect the progress achieved in this area in other relevant conventions, and to prepare new documents for consideration at its fourth session. The report of the secretariat is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/7.

13. Programme of work for the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties

63. Pursuant to decision 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation, the Conference of the Parties is to examine, at its fifth session, the reports of affected African country Parties.

64. By decision 4/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties decided to include in the agenda of its fifth session the adoption of the programme and budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

65. In accordance with decision 9/COP.1, the Conference of the Parties may wish to review the programme of work for the next session as appropriate.

14. Report of the session

66. A draft report of the session will be prepared for adoption at the final plenary, in accordance with established practice. The COP is invited to authorize the Rapporteur to complete the final report after the session, with the assistance of the secretariat and under the guidance of the President.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Documents available at the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties:

Document symbol	Title or description
ICCD/COP(4)/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work - Provisional agenda and annotations
ICCD/COP(4)/2	Programme and budget
ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.1	Programme and budget - Addendum - Need for, modalities for, costs involved and feasibility of the regional coordination units
ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.2	Programme and budget - Addendum - Proposal on the ways of improving the budgeting and reporting process
ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.3	Programme and budget - Addendum - Performance report of the Convention's trust funds in 1999
ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.4	Programme and budget - Addendum - Report on the performance of the trust fund for supplementary activities in 1999
ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.5	Programme and budget - Addendum - Audited financial statements for the Convention's trust funds in 1999: report of the United Nations Board of Auditors
ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.6	Programme and budget - Addendum - Performance report of the Convention's trust funds for the biennium 2000-2001 as of 30 June 2000 and current administrative arrangements with the United Nations
ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.7	Programme and budget - Addendum - Report on the performance of the trust fund for supplementary activities in the biennium 2000-2001 as of 30 June 2000
ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.8	Programme and budget - Addendum - Report on the status of contributions to the Convention's trust funds for the biennium 2000-2001 as of 30 November 2000
ICCD/COP(4)/3	Implementation of the Convention - Review of the report of the secretariat on progress made by affected country Parties in the implementation of the Convention
ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.1	Implementation of the Convention - Reports on implementation of affected country Parties of regions other than Africa, including on the participatory process and on experience gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes - Review of the report on progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in regions other than Africa (Asia)

Document symbol	Title or description
ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.2	Implementation of the Convention - Reports on implementation of affected country Parties of regions other than Africa, including on the participatory process and on experience gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes - Review of the report on progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in regions other than Africa (Latin America and the Caribbean)
ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.3	Implementation of the Convention - Reports on implementation of affected country Parties of regions other than Africa, including on the participatory process and on experience gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes - Review of the report on progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in regions other than Africa (Northern Mediterranean and other affected country Parties)
ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.4	Implementation of the Convention - Reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention
ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.5	Implementation of the Convention - Review of information provided by organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention - Review of available information regarding the financing of the implementation of the Convention by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2(b) of the Convention
ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.6	Implementation of the Convention - Review of the report of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism on their role and results obtained in facilitating consultative processes to negotiate and conclude partnership agreements based on national, subregional and regional action programmes
ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.7	Implementation of the Convention - Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention
ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.8	Implementation of the Convention - Consideration of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention, with a view to adopting it

Document symbol	Title or description
ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.9	Implementation of the Convention - Consideration of a draft declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention
ICCD/COP(4)/4	Global Mechanism - Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report on policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it
ICCD/COP(4)/4/Add.1	Global Mechanism - Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report on policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it - Addendum - Report on the operational strategy of the Global Mechanism
ICCD/COP(4)/4/Add.2	Global Mechanism - Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report on policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it - Addendum - Report of the Facilitation Committee of the Global Mechanism
ICCD/COP(4)/5	Maintenance of the Roster of experts
ICCD/COP(4)/5/Add.1	Maintenance of the Roster of experts - Addendum
ICCD/COP(4)/6	Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies
ICCD/COP(4)/7	Outstanding items - Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure
ICCD/COP(4)/8	Outstanding items - Consideration of procedure and institutional mechanism for the resolution of questions of implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward - Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6 of the Convention
ICCD/COP(4)/9	Accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, admission of observers
ICCD/COP(4)/10	Credential of delegations: report of the Bureau to the COP
ICCD/COP(4)/INF.1	Arrangements for the fourth session of the Conference of the parties - Preliminary information for participants
ICCD/COP(4)/INF.2	Status of ratification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(4)/INF.3	Preliminary list of UNCCD directory of focal points (as of 30 November 2000)

Document symbol	Title or description
ICCD/COP(4)/INF.4	List of participants
ICCD/COP(4)/INF.5	Latin American and the Caribbean First National Report Database
ICCD/COP(4)/INF.6	Assessment of the status of land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas

Documents available at the fourth session of the Committee on Science and Technology:

ICCD/COP(4)/CST/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: Provisional agenda and annotations
ICCD/COP(4)/CST/2	Traditional knowledge - Report of the ad hoc panel
ICCD/COP(4)/CST/3	Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies
ICCD/COP(4)/CST/4	Early warning systems - Report of the ad hoc panel
ICCD/COP(4)/CST/5	Synthesis of scientific and technical information contained in the reports from country Parties, in particular on benchmarks and indicators, for review by the CST

Other documents:

Third session of the Conference of the Parties

ICCD/COP(3)/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
ICCD/COP(3)/2	Programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001
ICCD/COP(3)/3	Programme and budget: review of the situation as regards to the Supplementary Fund, Special Fund and Bonn Fund
ICCD/COP(3)/3/Add.1	Programme and budget: review of the situation as regards to the Supplementary Fund, Special Fund and Bonn Fund
ICCD/COP(3)/4	Financial performance of 1999 budget (January-June)
ICCD/COP(3)/5	Review of the implementation of the Convention, including support to regional action programmes
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.1	Reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist affected African country Parties in the preparation and implementation of action programmes
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2	Reports on implementation of the Convention by affected African country Parties
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.3	Information provided by United Nations organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on their support to the preparation and implementation of action programmes in Africa

Document symbol	Title or description
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.4	Assistance provided by the secretariat to developing country Parties in preparation of national reports
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.5	Progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in Africa
ICCD/COP(3)/6	Medium-term strategy of the secretariat (revised)
ICCD/COP(3)/7	Procedures for resolution of questions, arbitration and conciliation
ICCD/COP(3)/8	Headquarters agreement with the Government of Germany
ICCD/COP(3)/9	Collaboration with other international bodies and conventions
ICCD/COP(3)/9/Add.1	Relations between the secretariat and the Global Environment Facility
ICCD/COP(3)/10	Revised draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the International Fund for Agricultural Development
ICCD/COP(3)/11	Report on policies, operational strategy, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism
ICCD/COP(3)/12	Report by IFAD on collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other organizations, including the private sector
ICCD/COP(3)/13	Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure
ICCD/COP(3)/14	Roster of independent experts: note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(3)/14/Add.1	Roster of independent experts
ICCD/COP(3)/15	List of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation as observers
ICCD/COP(3)/15/Add.1	List of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation as observers - addendum
ICCD/COP(3)/16	Draft additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for central and eastern European countries
ICCD/COP(3)/17	Establishment of additional procedures and/or institutional mechanisms to review the implementation of the Convention
ICCD/COP(3)/18	Procedure and institutional mechanism for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to implementation of the Convention
ICCD/COP(3)/19	Credentials of delegations: report of the Bureau to the COP

Document symbol	Title or description
ICCD/COP(3)/20	Report of the Conference of the Parties at its third session: Proceedings
ICCD/COP(3)/20/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties at its third session: Action taken
ICCD/COP(3)/INF.1	Preliminary information for participants
ICCD/COP(3)/INF.2	Extrabudgetary funds: summary report 1993-1998 (update of document ICCD/COP(2)/INF.2)
ICCD/COP(3)/INF.3	UNCCD National Reports Help Guide
ICCD/COP(3)/INF.4	Status of ratification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(3)/INF.5	UNCCD directory of focal points
ICCD/COP(3)/INF.6	List of participants
ICCD/COP(3)/MISC.1	Traditional knowledge

Third session of the Committee on Science and Technology

ICCD/COP(3)/CST/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the CST
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/2	Synthesis on important and widely applied traditional knowledge on a subregional and regional basis and on a national scale
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3	Report by the ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3/Add.1	Linkage of the work of UNCCD on traditional knowledge with that of related conventions
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3/Add.2	Report on traditional knowledge in dryland ecosystems
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/4	Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/5	Other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST: potential areas of cooperation between UNCCD and other bodies
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/6	Report on existing experiences of early warning systems and on specialized institutions acting in this field

Second session of the Conference of the Parties

ICCD/COP(2)/14	Report of the Conference of the Parties at its second session: Proceedings
ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties at its second session: Action taken

First session of the Conference of the Parties

Document symbol	Title or description
ICCD/COP(1)/11	Report of the Conference of the Parties at its first session: Proceedings
ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties at its first session: Action taken

Annex II

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORK

MONDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2000		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	*3 p.m. - 6 p.m.*
P L E N A R Y	**Informal Consultations**	1. Opening of the Conference by Executive Secretary of UNFCCC 2. Election of President of COP 3. Statement by the President 4. Statement by Under-Secretary-General on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations 5. Statement by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 6. Statement by the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization 7. Statement by the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development 8. Statement by the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility 9. Statements by other heads of United Nations agencies and programmes and executive secretaries of convention secretariats 10. Statement by representative of non-governmental organizations 11. Statement by Executive Secretary of UNFCCC 12. Adoption of the agenda *(FCCC/COP(4)/1)* 13. Election of other officers, including Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology 14. Adoption of organization of work and establishment of Committee of the Whole *(FCCC/COP(4)/2)* 15. Admission of observers and accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations *(FCCC/COP(4)/3)* 16. Other statements by Parties and observers
C O W	- - -	• Organization of work including review of outstanding items Implementation of the Convention: - Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the COP in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention *(FCCC/COP(4)/3/Add.7)*

MONDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2000, cont'd		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
CST	- - -	- - -
AHWG*	- - -	- - -
AHGE**	- - -	- - -

* ad hoc working group established by decision 6/COP.3
** open-ended ad hoc group of experts established by decision 2/COP.3

TUESDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2000		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
PLENARY		
COW	• Programme and budget (ICCD/COP(4)/2) - Regional coordination units (ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.1), - Improvement of the budgeting and reporting process (ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.2) - Performance report on the Convention's trust funds (ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.3 and Add.6) - Report on supplementary fund (ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.4 and Add. 7) - Audited financial statements (ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.5) - Status of contributions (ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.8)	- - -
CST	• Organization of work (ICCD/COP(4)/CST/1) • Establishment of a roster of experts (ICCD/COP(4)/5 and Add.1) • Survey and evaluation of networks (ICCD/COP(4)/CST/3)	• Synthesis of scientific and technical information, in particular benchmarks and indicators contained in the country Parties' reports to be examined by the CST (ICCD/COP(4)/CST/4)

TUESDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2000, cont'd		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	*3 p.m. - 6 p.m.*
AHWG*	- - -	• Implementation of the Convention - In depth review and analysis of reports submitted at COP.3 and COP.4: - Review of the implementation of the Convention by subregions *(ICCD/COP(3)/5 and ICCD/COP(4)/4)* - Reports on implementation of affected African country parties *(ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2)*
AHGE**	- - -	- - -

WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2000		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	*3 p.m. - 6 p.m.*
PLENARY	- - -	- - -
COW	- - -	- - -
CST	• Traditional knowledge *(ICCD/COP(4)/CST/2)*	• Early warning systems *(ICCD/COP(4)/CST/4)*
AHWG*	• Progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in Africa *(ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.5)* • Review of the reports from developed country parties, UN, IGOs, NGO and the secretariat on the assistance provided to affected African country parties *(ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.1, Add.3 and Add.4)*	• Reports on implementation of affected Asian country parties and progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes *(ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.1)*
AHGE**	- - -	- - -

THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2000		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	*3 p.m. - 6 p.m.*
PLENARY	- - -	- - -
COW	- - -	- - -
CST	• Creation of ad hoc panel(s) of experts • Drafting of the report to COP	• Programme of work for CST • Adoption of recommendations to COP
AHWG*	• Reports on implementation of affected Asian country parties and progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes (follows) • Report from developed country Parties on assistance provided to affected Asian countries *(ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.4)*	• Reports on implementation of affected Latin America and the Caribbean country parties and progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes *(ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.2)*
AHGE**	- - -	- - -

FRIDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2000		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	*3 p.m. - 6 p.m.*
PLENARY	• Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official COP work programme: open dialogue session	• Report of the Committee of the Whole • Report of CST
COW	- - -	- - -
CST	- - -	- - -

FRIDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2000, cont'd		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
AHWG*	• Reports on implementation of affected Latin America and the Caribbean country parties and progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes (follows) • Report from developed country Parties on assistance provided to affected Latin America and the Caribbean countries *(ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.4)*	• Reports on implementation of Northern Mediterranean and other affected country Parties and progress made in the formulation and implementation of the regional action programme *(ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.3)* • Report from UN bodies, IGOs and NGOs on their support to affected country Parties of regions other than Africa *(ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.5)* • Adoption of conclusions and recommendations of the ad hoc working group
AHGE**	- - -	- - -

MONDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2000		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
PLENARY	• Special segment on implementation of the Convention	• Special segment on implementation of the Convention
COW	• Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies *(ICCD/COP(4)/6)*	• Global Mechanism: - Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report on policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it *(ICCD/COP(4)/4)* - Report on the operational strategy of the Global Mechanism *(ICCD/COP(4)/4/Add.1)*
CST	- - -	- - -

MONDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2000, cont'd		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
AHWG*	- - -	- - -
AHGE**	- - -	- - -

TUESDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2000		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
PLENARY	• Special segment on implementation of the Convention	• Special segment on implementation of the Convention
COW	• Global Mechanism: - Report of the Facilitation Committee of the Global Mechanism *(ICCD/COP(4)/4/Add.2)* • Implementation of the Convention: - Report of the GM and the secretariat on partnership agreements on NAPs, SRAPs and RAPs *(ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.6)*	• Implementation of the Convention: - Consideration of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention *(ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.8)*
CST	- - -	- - -
AHGE**	- - -	- - -

WEDNESDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2000		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
PLENARY	• Special segment on the implementation of the Convention	• Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official COP work programme: open dialogue session

WEDNESDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2000, cont'd		
COW	• Implementation of the Convention: - Consideration of a draft declaration of commitments to enhance the implementation of the Convention *(ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.9)*	• Outstanding items: - Consideration and approval of Rules of Procedure not yet agreed upon: Rule 47 *(ICCD/COP(4)/7)*
CST	- - -	- - -
AHWG+	- - -	- - -
AHGE++	- - -	Outstanding items: - Consideration of procedure and institutional mechanism for the resolution of questions of implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward *(ICCD/COP(4)/8)*

THURSDAY, 21 DECEMBER 2000		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	*3 p.m. - 6 p.m.*
PLENARY	- - -	- - -
COW	- - -	• Programme of work for COP.5 • Adoption of the report to the Conference of the Parties
CST	- - -	- - -
AHWG+	- - -	- - -
AHGE++	• Outstanding items: - Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6 of the Convention *(ICCD/COP(4)/8)*	• Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

FRIDAY, 22 DECEMBER 2000		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
PLENARY	• Adoption of conclusions of the Committee of the Whole • Adoption of conclusions of the ad hoc group of experts	• Other actions to be taken by the COP • Report of the session
COW	To be determined	To be determined
CST	- - -	- - -
AHWG*	- - -	- - -
AHGE**	- - -	- - -

- - - - - -

UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(4)/2
8 November 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Fourth session
Bonn, 11-22 December 2000
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

Note by the secretariat

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* ICCD/COP(4)/1.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. Rule 10(d) of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties (ICCD/COP(1)11/Add.1) provides that the provisional agenda for each ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) shall include, as appropriate, the proposed budget as well as all questions pertaining to the accounts and financial arrangements.

2. By its decision 3/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to report at its fourth session on the need for, feasibility of, and modalities for regional coordination units and the costs involved with a view to enabling the Conference of the Parties to take a decision on the issue. Further, the Executive Secretary was requested to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session on the financial performance of the Convention budget and to submit proposals on how the budgeting and reporting process could be improved, taking into account the developments and practices in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and any other relevant intergovernmental organizations, and to propose any adjustments which might be needed for the biennium 2000-2001.

B. Scope of the report

3. This document and its addenda address the requests of the third session of the Conference of Parties as outlined above. The addenda are organized as follows:

1.	ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.1	Programme and budget: Need for, modalities for, costs involved and feasibility of the regional coordination units
2.	ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.2	Programme and budget: Proposal on the ways of improving the budgeting and reporting process
3.	ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.3	Programme and budget: Performance report of the Convention's trust funds in 1999
4.	ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.4	Programme and budget: Report on the performance of the trust fund for supplementary activities in 1999
5.	ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.5	Programme and budget: Audited financial statements for the Convention's trust funds in 1999: report of the United Nations Board of Auditors
6.	ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.6	Programme and budget: Performance report of the Convention's trust funds for the biennium 2000-2001 as of 30 June 2000 and current administrative arrangements with the United Nations
7.	ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.7	Programme and budget: Report on the performance of the trust fund for supplementary activities in the biennium 2000-2001 as of 30 June 2000
8.	ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.8	Programme and budget: Report on the status of contributions to the Convention's trust funds for the biennium 2000-2001 as of 30 November 2000

II. REGIONAL COORDINATION UNITS

4. The affected developing country Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia have deemed it necessary to put in place adequate regional facilities, which would help them in their efforts to develop and implement their regional action programmes. To this end the secretariat has been asked to facilitate the establishment of these regional coordination units with the support of interested partners. Consequently, the necessary arrangements have been made to house the regional coordination units at the United Nations Environment Programme regional office (UNEP/ROLAC) in Mexico, the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, respectively.

5. At the request of the country Parties concerned, the secretariat has been mobilizing supplementary funds from partners for the functioning of the regional coordination units. So far UNEP, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and relevant African subregional organizations (UMA, CILSS and ECOWAS) have confirmed their readiness to contribute towards the activities as well as the functioning of the units.

6. However the sustainability of the regional coordination units will be achieved only if a regular source of funding is guaranteed. It is estimated that an amount of US$420,211 will be required on an annual basis to cover the operational costs, which include staff salaries of the three units. It should be noted that the substantive activities of the units will continue to be supported through supplementary funding. It is anticipated that this arrangement will allow for improved efficiency and capacity to respond to the needs of the affected countries of the regions concerned.

Possible action by the COP

7. At its fourth session, the Conference of the Parties may wish to take the necessary measures to cover the operational costs of the regional coordination units. Estimated resource requirements for this purpose from the core budget in 2001 is US$420,211.

III. PROPOSALS ON IMPROVING THE BUDGETING AND REPORTING

8. The secretariat has prepared a report which gives a brief overview of the budgeting and reporting processes in the UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNDP, UNFPA and in the United Nations. Proposals on how budgeting and reporting process could be improved in the UNCCD are also included. Three options for the preparation of the next biennial budget have been identified and are submitted for consideration.

9. The performance report on 1999 and interim performance report on 2000, submitted to the COP 4 are presented as examples of this improvement. They combine programme-based reporting with elements of results-based reporting. Both reports provide a clear distinction between the utilization of the core and the supplementary funds.

Possible action by the COP

10. If the performance reporting is meant to cover the main activities and results, the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider combining the current document on performance reports and the implementation reports from the year 2001 onwards.

IV. PERFORMANCE REPORTS

11. Document ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.3 summarizes the financial performance on all Convention Trust Funds for 1999, providing information on the performance level, as well as on programme implementation and results achieved. Additional information is provided in ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.4 on the activities supported by supplementary funds. It gives a brief description of the activities facilitated by the secretariat, the results achieved and the statement of expenditures.

12. An interim report on the financial performance of all Convention Trust Funds for 2000 is also being submitted to the Conference of the Parties. The interim report presents the expenditures as of 30 June 2000 and the estimated income and expenditures to 31 December 2000. The activities to be undertaken during the last six months of 2000 are briefly described and presented with estimated expenditures and expected results.

13. It is important to note that more funding is being sought in the year 2001 in order to provide the required support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies as well as to strengthen the human resource capacities of the Global Mechanism and the secretariat.

Possible action by the COP

14. The Conference of the Parties is being requested to approve an additional US$1,186,000 for the requirements noted above.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

15. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997, which endorsed the institutional linkage between the Convention and the United Nations Secretariat, the Secretary-General of the United Nations made a proposal to institute a transitional arrangements for administrative support to the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) for 1999-2000. This proposal was accepted by the Conference of the Parties at its first session (decision 3/COP.1).

16. Since the permanent secretariat of UNCCD relocated from Geneva to Bonn at the beginning of 1999 it has continued to take on more administrative and financial functions previously performed by UNOG in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness in responding to the needs of the secretariat. In order to cope with the increased level of responsibility, the secretariat intends to continue to negotiate on an increased proportion of resources from the 13 per cent programme support to the UNCCD for strengthening the administrative services. The secretariat has also started negotiations with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to establish joint administrative services in Bonn.

17. If the COP agrees to this action, the Executive Secretary will continue discussions with the UNFCCC and United Nations Headquarters on modalities for administration and for effecting an equitable sharing of the resources from the 13 per cent Programme Support Cost paid to the United Nations on all expenditures of conventions trust funds.

VI. AUDITORS' REPORTS

18. The report of the United Nations Board of Auditors, containing the audited financial statements of the Convention Trust Funds in 1999 will be submitted *in extenso* to the COP 4. The document contains two parts: Part A includes the audited financial statements of the Convention Trust Funds in 1999 managed by the secretariat, and Part B includes the audited financial statements on the funds managed by the Global Mechanism.

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PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

Note by the secretariat

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PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

(a) NEED FOR, MODALITIES FOR, COSTS INVOLVED AND FEASIBILITY OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATION UNITS

Note by the secretariat

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its decision 3/COP(3) on Programme and Budget for the biennium 2000/2001, particularly paragraph 10 which deals with the functioning of the regional coordination units, the Conference of the Parties requests the Executive Secretary to report on the need for, the feasibility of and costs involved of the regional coordination units with a view to enabling the Conference of the Parties to take a decision on the issue.

2. The regional implementation annexes are a unique feature of UNCCD that have an impact on the proposed institutional set up to facilitate the implementation process. In accordance with article 11 of the Convention and the relevant provisions of the regional implementation annexes, in 1996 affected country Parties from Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions started consultation on the elaboration of their regional action programmes to combat desertification. The establishment of the regional coordination units is meant to strengthen the capacity of the Parties of the respective regions in preparing and implementing their own programmes.

3. Several consultations have been held in the different regions with the aim of discussing and agreeing on priority activities, which will lay the basis of the regional action programmes. Those consultations took place as follows:

Asia and the Pacific	21-23 August 1996, New Delhi, India
	13-15 May 1997, Beijing, China
	10-13 November 1998, Bangkok, Thailand
Latin America and the Caribbean	24-26 January 1996, Buenos Aires, Argentina
	17-19 June 1996, Mexico City, Mexico
	10-12 March 1997, Havana, Cuba
	29 April-1 May 1998, St. John, Antigua and Barbuda
	9-12 August 1999, Lima, Peru
Africa	18-21 March 1997, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
	2-5 November 1998, Tunis, Tunisia
	30 September-1 October 1999, Nairobi, Kenya

4. The affected country Parties of the above-mentioned regions recognized the need to put in place an adequate regional back-up facility, which would help them to further develop and implement their regional action programmes and thereby to meet their obligations under the Convention. Consequently, institutional arrangements initiated by the region have been made to house the regional coordination units respectively at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean region in Mexico (August 1998), at the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (December 1999) and at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand (September 2000).

5. The identification of the needs for the regional coordination units has emerged from a demand-driven approach reflecting the requests from affected country Parties listed in the regional implementation annexes. The range of expressed needs can be illustrated by the main activities of the regional coordination units as decided by the regional meetings referred to in paragraph 2, above.

II. NEED FOR REGIONAL COORDINATION UNITS

A. Activities

6. The main activities of the regional coordination units would be based on the provisions stipulated in the Convention and on subsequent decisions taken by concerned country Parties. They aim at promoting a strong regional ownership of activities in the following areas:

(a) Support for the development of the regional action programmes as well as follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of national, subregional and regional action programmes, while paying due attention to the necessary relationships between the various levels;

(b) Coordination of activities among relevant subregional and regional organizations in carrying out the priority activities in the context of the regional action programmes;

(c) Promotion of capacity-building for activities, which are better implemented at the regional level;

(d) Promotion of exchange of information and appropriate techniques, technical know-how and relevant experiences, while strengthening synergy between UNCCD, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);

(e) Follow-up of decisions emanating from the Conference of the Parties, as well as the outcome of the regional meetings;

(f) Facilitation of consultative processes for the formulation of partnership arrangements, mobilization of cooperating partners and organizing regular consultations with them through their representatives in the region;

(g) Support for setting up new mechanisms, including desertification funds, to mobilize domestic and external financial resources for the implementation of the Convention;

(h) Advice on Convention monitoring, including the preparation of national reports and assisting in the elaboration of country desertification profiles;

(i) Coordination of thematic programme networks and of their contribution to interregional cooperation.

B. Expected results

7. The regional coordination units should supplement the efforts of the affected country Parties and other interested partners to meet the needs of the main actors and should coordinate the implementation of the regional action programme on a day-to-day basis.

8. It is expected that the regional coordination units will contribute to the following:

(a) Mobilization of political will at the regional level and greater awareness on the part of decision makers of countries and international cooperation institutions regarding the need to rationalize and coordinate their approaches to obtain the maximum benefit from UNCCD implementation;

(b) Review of existing programmes, projects and activities at the regional level with a view to harmonizing them in the light of the Convention and to seek convergence in the process of elaborating and implementing the regional action programmes;

(c) Strengthening of the capacities of country Parties to UNCCD and to regional and subregional organizations, in terms of formulating, managing and coordinating their policies, projects and programmes on combating desertification;

(d) Implementation and appropriate follow-up of UNCCD in the regions and strengthening the base for inter-institutional cooperation, notably with a view to achieving greater synergy in the implementation process of the three Rio Conventions: UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD.

III. MODALITIES

9. Following the establishment of the regional coordination units within UNEP, Mexico (for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region), the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (for Africa) and within ESCAP (for Asia), those units have started their activities as described in chapter II, above.

10. At the request of the countries of the region concerned, the secretariat has facilitated the establishment of these three regional coordination units by negotiating and concluding with the host organizations and, as appropriate, with the host countries, a memorandum of understanding that governs the functioning of the regional units.

11. For the purposes of carrying out their mandates, each Regional Coordination Unit has been provided by the host institutions with office space, equipment and administrative backstopping, while the secretariat of the Convention has been requested by the country Parties concerned to support their efforts in strengthening the capacity of these units through the recruitment of the regional coordinator.

12. The secretariat has approached various bilateral and multilateral partners on the possibility of supporting the work undertaken by the units. So far, UNEP, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Organization of African Unity (OUA) and subregional organizations (Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA), Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sechéresse dans le Sahel (CILSS) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)) have been able to confirm, on an interim basis, their readiness to contribute to the functioning of the units.

13. The secretariat has been mobilizing the necessary funds for the functioning of the regional coordination units on an interim basis through contributions to the supplementary fund at the request of the concerned Parties. Sustainability of the scheme can be strengthened by regular source of funding for the staff of the three regional coordinating units. Only then would the required institutional continuity enable a consequent planning of the activities of the regional units in the long term, thus improving their efficiency.

IV. COSTS INVOLVED

14. The provisional estimates of costs for the functioning of the regional coordination units in support of the regional action programmes is US$551,868 per year (see table below).

Table. Estimated costs of regional coordination units

(United States dollars)

Item	Africa		Asia		LAC		Grand total	
	Month	Year	Month	Year	Month	Year	Month	Year
Salary (Coordinator)	9,351	112,212	7,819	93,828	7,819	93,828	24,989	299,868
Clerical cost	2,000	24,000	2,000	24,000	2,000	24,000	6,000	72,000
Travel	3,000	36,000	3,000	36,000	3,000	36,000	9,000	108,000
Communications	1,000	12,000	1,000	12,000	1,000	12,000	3,000	36,000
Supplies	1,000	12,000	1,000	12,000	1,000	12,000	3,000	36,000
Grand total	16,351	196,212	14,819	177,828	14,819	177,828	45,989	551,868

V. FEASIBILITY

15. The institutional feasibility of the regional coordination units has been demonstrated through their hosting arrangements and the willingness of affected country Parties to contribute to their running costs. The Parties may wish to consider in the light of this report whether budgetary resources can be provided under the core budget for 2001 in order to cover the salary costs of a coordinator and a secretary per regional coordination unit. The total amount required for staff costs for one year is US$371,868.

16. The operational and other costs of the units including, *inter alia*, communication, travel and supplies, would continue to be funded through voluntary contributions under the Supplementary Fund.

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PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

(b) PROPOSAL ON THE WAYS OF IMPROVING THE BUDGETING AND REPORTING PROCESS

Addendum

Note by the Executive Secretary

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[1] ICCD/COP(4)/1.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By decision 3/COP.3 on the Programme and Budget for the biennium 2000-2001, particularly paragraph 11, which deals with the reporting on the financial performance of the core budget of the Convention, the Executive Secretary was requested to submit proposals on how the budgeting and reporting process could be improved, taking into account the developments and practices in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and any other relevant international organizations.

2. By the same decision, particularly paragraph 16, which deals with the reporting of the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, the Executive Secretary was requested to seek the views of the Parties on how the financial reporting to the Conference of the Parties could be improved and report on this issue to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session.

3. In a verbal note to the Parties, dated 17 December 1999, the Executive Secretary sought the views of the Parties on the budgeting and reporting process. Regrettably no replies were received.

4. In accordance with decision 3/COP.3, the Executive Secretary presents hereby a brief overview on the budgeting and reporting processes in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and the United Nations system in general. This note also includes proposals on how the budgeting and reporting process could be improved.

II. THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRACTICES OF THE BUDGETING AND REPORTING PROCESSES IN THE UNFCCC AND THE UNCBD

5. In the organizations of the United Nations system budgeting and reporting processes have developed first from object-of-expenditure budgets to programme budgets, and recent developments in some organizations are towards results-based budgeting. In both the UNCBD and the UNFCCC the budgeting and reporting processes are based on biennial programme budgets, adopted by the respective Conferences of the Parties.

6. Both the UNCBD and the UNFCCC biennial programme budgets are structurally organized into six programmes. The programme budget contains the staffing and resource requirements of each programme, together with a summary description of each programme's main activities. An explanation of major changes from the previous budget biennium is also provided. In addition, supplementary information is given on some specific activities and requirements of each programme.[2]

7. In an additional information document (UNFCCC) or addendum (UNCBD) the work programmes are presented using standard templates for each programme. The templates contain an overview of responsibilities for and information on expected results, external linkages, approved posts, new posts required, resources required and resources from outside the core budget by each programme and its subprogrammes. The UNFCCC information document includes clarification of the limits of the programme. This contains the guidelines followed and assumptions used in preparing the programme of work.[3]

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[2] For more information, please see FCCC/SBI/1999/4 and UNEP/CBD/COP/5/18.

[3] For more information, please see FCCC/CP/1999/INF.1 and UNEP/CBD/COP/5/18/Add.1.

8. The UNFCCC budget performance report[4] provides information on the income and expenditure of all four trust funds of this Convention, namely: Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the UNFCCC, Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities; Trust Fund for Participation in the UNFCCC Process; and Trust Fund for the Special Annual Contribution from the Government of Germany (Bonn Fund).

9. In regard to the core budget, the performance report focuses on the level of performance. This information is provided as percentages of budgeted resources used. The presentation of the level of performance is accompanied by brief highlights of the main output achieved by each programme. Detailed information on programme performance is provided in an information document. The performance is presented in tables by programmes listing the results and output, such as the number of events organized and documents produced. The addendum also briefly lists other achievements.

10. The utilization of the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities is presented in a list of projects funded by this source. Each project is briefly described, and the descriptions are accompanied by the actual expenditures or commitments for the funding of each project.

11. Information on income and expenditures under the Trust Fund for Participation and the Bonn Fund is provided in a table on each fund. Detailed information on contributions to the Trust Fund for Participation as well as to the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities is contained in an information document.[5]

12. In addition, the UNFCCC budget performance report provides information on personnel matters, administrative arrangements of the Convention, scale of contributions to the core budget, and the status of implementation of audit observations and recommendations.

13. The UNCBD budget performance report[6] provides information on the income and expenditure of all three trust funds of this Convention, namely: General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, including contribution from the host Government; Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Parties in the Convention Process; and Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Approved Activities of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

14. The performance report focuses on the level of performance of the core budget. This information is provided as percentages of budgeted resources used. The presentation of the level of performance is supported by brief descriptions of the utilization of funds by each programme and by object of expenditure. The report does not include information on the accomplishments of the activities undertaken.

15. Utilization of the Trust Fund for Participation is presented as a list of meetings in which participation is supported. The list also shows the number of participants funded for each meeting.

16. In regard to the utilization of the Trust Fund for Additional Approved Activities, the information is provided in a list of main activities funded from this source and the funding used or committed for each activity.

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[4] FCCC/SBI/1999/10.

[5] FCCC/SBI/1999/INF.9.

[6] UNEP/CBD/COP/5/9.

17. In addition, the UNCBD budget performance report provides information on personnel matters and the administrative arrangements of the Convention. The scale of contributions and financial statements by the auditors for the previous year as well as the status of contributions to the three trust funds are set out in an annex.

18. The budgeting and reporting processes in both the UNFCCC and the UNCBD are based on programme budgeting. References to the expected results of each programme are included in an information document or in an addendum to the budget documents. Nevertheless the performance reporting in both conventions focuses on the deliverance of output mainly in a quantitative manner. In the UNFCCC performance report this is supported by a short description of the output of each programme.

III. CURRENT UNCCD BUDGETING AND REPORTING PROCESS

19. Until 1999, the UNCCD budget was part of the regular budget of the United Nations. The first regular programme and budget of the UNCCD for 1999 was approved by the first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 1) in 1997 and adjusted by COP 2 in 1998, and the first whole programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001 was approved by COP 3 in 1999. The UNCCD biennial programme budget is organized into seven programmes. The programme budget contains staffing and resource requirements by each programme together with a summary description of each programme's main activities. In an additional document, information is given on activities to be financed from the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund.[7]

20. The first performance report on the Convention budget, covering actual expenditures as of 31 July 1999 and estimated expenditures for the remaining months of the year, was submitted to COP 3 in 1999. The first performance reports covering a full year (1999) and interim performance reports for the current biennium as of 30 June 2000 have been submitted to COP 4.[8]

21. The performance reports provide information on the four trust funds of the Convention, namely: General Trust Fund for the Core Budget (General Fund), Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities of UNCCD (Supplementary Fund); Special Trust Fund for Participation in the Process of UNCCD (Participation Fund); and Trust Fund for the Supplementary Contribution to the Convention Activities by the Host Government (Bonn Fund).

22. The reports present the performance of the programmes. The information is provided as percentages of the budgeted resources used. It is supplemented by information on the supplementary funds. The reports provide also information on main activities undertaken by each programme, supported by a brief assessment of achieved results.

23. In addition, detailed information on the utilization of the Supplementary Fund is provided in an addendum, which presents a list of activities undertaken by each programme. Each activity is briefly described, and the descriptions are accompanied by assessments of achieved results and by actual or estimated expenditures. These performance reports thus provide an example to the Conference of the Parties on how the reporting can be improved by combining programme-based reporting with elements of results-based reporting.

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[7] For more information, please see ICCD/COP(3)/2 and ICCD/COP(3)/2/Add.1.

[8] For more information, please see ICCD/COP(3)/3, ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.3, Add.4, Add.6 and Add.7.

24. The performance report on 1999 and the interim performance report on 2000 provide detailed information on the utilization of funds, in particular the reports on the utilization of the Supplementary Fund. If the performance reporting is developed towards summarizing main activities and results, the Parties may consider whether the reports could be streamlined, for example, by presenting only the total expenditure of each activity, thus providing a better basis for policy guidance.

25. In addition to the information on the performance of the Convention trust funds, information has been submitted to the Parties on the implementation of the Convention for consideration in COP 2 in 1998, COP 3 in 1999 and COP 4 in 2000.[7]

IV. THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRACTICES OF THE BUDGETING AND REPORTING PROCESSES IN THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM[8]

26. Until recently, two types of budget existed in the organizations of the United Nations system. The first type is the object-of-expenditure budget, which allocates resources to expenditures for items such as salaries, travel and equipment required to implement activities during a given period. The second type is the programme budget, which allocates resources to specific programmes and subprogrammes, generally based on work plans and identified priorities. There has been a general trend from the object-of-expenditure budget to the programme budget in United Nations organizations, and by 1999 none of those organizations were using the object-of-expenditure budget any more.

27. In programme budgeting, programmes are formulated within the framework of a medium-term plan or a corresponding document that describes the components, legislative basis and objectives of the programme. In general, programme budgeting has focused on the review of the status and pattern of output delivery in a quantitative sense. It has not emphasized the quality and relevance of the output and to what extent the output has led to the achievement of the objectives of the medium-term plan.

28. As a possible improved evolution of the current programme budget process, the United Nations has been studying viable options available in the field of results-based budgeting. Both programme and results-based budgeting provide for resource allocations by specific programmes, with work plans and an indication of priorities. The distinguishing feature of the results-based budgeting is its primary focus on expected results and the use of performance indicators to measure achievement of those results.

29. Results-based budgeting involves the creation of a logical framework, which assists programme managers in designing the elements of the programme budget in one coherent and interrelated structure. The framework consist of objectives for a defined period of time (such as a biennium), expected results, output and input. In order to fulfil the objectives, the programme should achieve its results. For that the specific output is needed.

30. Results-based budgeting aims at ensuring that the organization will work towards achieving results and not only towards delivering output. Through the formulation of performance indicators and the link with output, the focus of the budget document will be on expected results.

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[7] For more information, please see ICCD/COP(2)/5, ICCD/COP(3)/5 and ICCD/COP(4)/3.

[8] For more information, please see A/53/500, A/53/287 and A/54/456.

United Nations

31. From 1997 the United Nations has developed guidelines for the results-based budgeting. Resolutions 52/12 B, 53/205 and 54/249 of the United Nations General Assembly reflect the consideration of a possible shift from input accounting to results-based accountability in the programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation cycle of the United Nations. Among the different issues being considered under this general budget overview/analysis, is the introduction of objectives and indicators of performance by the Committee on Programme and Coordination. However, to date the General Assembly has not endorsed the concept of results-based budgeting.

32. Likewise, several United Nations specialized agencies are undertaking budgetary reforms that include the application of results-based budgeting elements. Also a number of United Nations operational funds and programmes, funded through voluntary contributions, are introducing budgetary innovations focusing on a results framework and corporate goals. Although it is too soon to dispose of detailed information on tangible output at this early stage of the process, the budgeting and reporting processes in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are briefly presented below as examples of applying the results-based budgeting.

UNDP and UNFPA

33. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) results-based management has two emphases. The first one is effective planning, performance assessment and organizational learning; the second one emphasizes accountability and external reporting.

34. In accordance with UNDP Executive Board decisions 98/1 and 99/1, UNDP has recently introduced its first multi-year funding framework (MYFF), which sets a four-year time-frame (2000-2003) for the work of the UNDP. The MYFF consists of a strategic-results framework and an integrated resources framework. During the MYFF period two biennial budgets will be formulated for implementing the MYFF.[21]

35. The strategic results framework provides a broad frame for UNDP strategic development goals and strategic areas of UNDP support activities. Expected outcomes and output are identified to enable the assessment of results.

36. Together with the strategic results framework, the integrated resources framework (IRF) brings together the resource allocation frameworks for programmes. The IRF covers the four-year MYFF period, and the UNDP biennial budgets are based on the IRF.

37. Based on the intended results outlined in the MYFF, a results-oriented annual report (ROAR) reviews and analyses the results achieved, and how those results relate to the goals and sub-goals of the Organization. Progress is measured through indicators focusing on development trends by goal, outcome (detailed analysis by selected sub-goals), and institutional performance. Financial reporting remains at a very general level on the expenditures. The first ROAR, reporting on 1999, does not offer detailed information on how the funding was used.[22]

38. Every four years a multi-year funding framework report (MYFFR) provides an in-depth assessment of performance against planned resources.

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[21] For more information, please see DP/1999/30.

[22] For more information, please see DP/1999/23/Add.1.

39. The UNFPA multi-year funding framework (2000-2003) was developed in response to Executive Board decisions 98/24 and 99/5. The MYFF is composed of a results framework and an integrated resources framework.[1]

40. The results framework consists of broad organizational goals and indicators for assessment of the achievement of the goals, output and indicators for measuring progress towards achieving the output, and key programme strategies, defined as ways in which UNFPA deploys its resources to obtain results. The integrated resources framework presents resource requirements emphasizing the relationship between results and resources. The UNFPA biennial budgets are based on the integrated resources framework.

41. The first annual report, containing provisional information on annual progress in contributing to goals and providing output, and on the status of financial implementation of the resources framework, will be available in 2001 for the year 2000. A multi-year funding framework report will be provided at the end of the four-year MYFF cycle.

V. CONCLUSIONS

42. In the light of the development of the budgeting and reporting processes in the UNFCCC and the UNCBD, and in the United Nations system, the Conference of the Parties might wish to consider various options to improve the budgeting and reporting process in the UNCCD.

43. The first option would be to continue the preparation of the next biennial budget on a programme basis. The main structure of the budget could follow its present form. The second option would be to develop the budget on a programme basis, but include the best elements of the programme budgeting and the results-based budgeting. These elements could emphasize the expected results, accomplishments of the programme and indicators to assess those accomplishments. The third option could be the results-based budgeting, which could include the development of a framework of objectives, output, expected results and performance indicators.

44. The Executive Secretary would, in any option continue to improve transparency and structure of budgeting and reporting with the aim of providing the Conference of the Parties with accurate information for its policy guidance.

45. The documents on the implementation of the Convention cover a period of 12 months, from October to the following September, while the performance reports cover a calendar year. If the performance reporting is developed towards summarizing main activities and results, the Parties may consider combining the performance reports and the implementation reports. Thus one document could cover both activities and resources utilized. Such reports could cover a calendar year or the Conference of the Parties could consider the possibility of receiving biennial reports from 2001 onwards.

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[1] For more information, please see DP/FPA/2000/6.

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(c) PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CONVENTION'S TRUST FUNDS IN 1999

Note by the secretariat

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[1] ICCD/COP(4)/1.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. Rule 10 (d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties (ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1) provides that the provisional agenda for each ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) shall include, as appropriate, the proposed budget as well as all questions pertaining to the accounts and financial arrangements.

2. The Executive Secretary provided to the third session of the Conference of the Parties reports on the financial performance of the Convention budget for 1999, Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities and Trust Fund for Participation in the Process of UNCCD as at July 31 and estimates up to 31 December 1999. The report covers the actual performance of the whole budget year 1999.

3. The Conference of the Parties at its third session, after taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary on administrative and financial matters, requested the Executive Secretary to report at its fourth session on the financial performance of the Convention budget and to submit proposals on how the budgeting and reporting process could be improved, taking into account the developments and practices in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and any other relevant intergovernmental organizations. In response to that request, the present report also gives information on programme implementation and results achieved in addition to the performance level.

B. Scope of the report

4. This document is organized as follows:

(a) Section II contains information on performance for the year 1999 as of 31 December for the four trust funds administered by the secretariat, namely, General Trust Fund for the Core Budget (Core Budget), Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities of UNCCD (Supplementary Fund), Special Trust Fund for Participation in the Process of UNCCD (Participation Fund) and the Trust Fund for the Supplementary Contribution for Convention Activities by the Host Government (Bonn Fund);

(b) Section III provides information on the management of human resources;

(c) Section IV provides information on the status of working capital reserve.

5. When reviewing the performance report, consideration should be given to the fact that while a budget of US$6,100,000 was approved, only US$4,956,800 was to come from the assessed contributions. In addition, DM 1,000,000 (US$601,383 United Nations official rate of exchange for the month of January 1999) was to be received as a special contribution from the Government of Germany to the Core Budget, therefore making a grand total of US$5,558,183. In accordance with decision 6/COP.2, the secretariat was to make savings equivalent to DM 1,000,000. After taking into account programme support and working capital reserve, the amount available for all programmes was US$4,541,800.

6. This document should be read in conjunction with other documents relating to the administrative and financial matters of the Convention prepared by the secretariat for the fourth session. The additional documents are:

(a) The report on the performance of the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities (ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.4);

(b) The final audited statement of accounts for 1999 for the trust funds of UNCCD (ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.5).

II. PERFORMANCE REPORT

A. Trust Fund to the Core Budget and Supplementary Activities

1. Report on income

7. The status of contributions to the Core Budget and Supplementary Fund is summarized below (table 1).

Table 1. Summary of income in 1999
(United States dollars)

Source	Core Budget received contributions as of 31/12/99	Supplementary Fund contributions as of 31/12/99
1999 assessed contributions from Parties	4 962 259	-
Special contribution from Germany (DM 1 million)	601 383	-
Balance of supplementary funds brought forward from 1998	-	1 582 658
1999 voluntary contributions to the Supplementary Fund		3 761 348
Subtotal	**5 563 642**	**5 344 006**
Interest income	27 622	39 874
Total	**5 591 264**	**5 383 880**

8. As at 31 December 1999, 62 Parties had paid their contributions. Of the total amount of assessed contributions received (US$4,962,259), US$402,125 represents overpayments as a consequence of the reductions in assessed contributions due to an increase in the number of Parties to the Convention. These overpayments will be credited against the future assessed contributions of the Parties concerned. Paid contributions represented 91.9 per cent of the approved contributions. At the end of the reporting period, 97 country Parties had not paid their assessed contributions amounting to US$396,736. The Executive Secretary has sent out reminder letters inviting all Parties who have not yet paid their contribution in full to do so without further delay. Contributions to the Core Budget are reported in annex I, contributions to the Supplementary Fund in annex II and contributions to the Participation Fund in annex III.

9. In addition to the above, voluntary contributions of US$601,383 (DM 1 million) has been received from the host Government. These contributions are taken into consideration in table 1.

2. Report on expenditures

10. Summaries of actual expenditure under the Core Budget and Supplementary Funds for 1999, broken down by programme and object of expenditure respectively, for the year 1999 are given in tables 2 and 3.

11. When reviewing these tables it should be borne in mind that this being the first budget, the secretariat lacked experience to enable it to estimate accurately the expenditures under various objects of expenditure. The experience gained from the results of this year will help to improve the accuracy of future budgets.

12. Actual expenditure for the year amounted to US$4,520,912 or 99.5 per cent of the funds made available by the COP 2 (US$4,541,800, see paragraph 5 above). However it should be noted that this expenditure level was made possible by the overpayment referred to above (paragraph 8), as there were still some countries that had not paid their contributions. It is anticipated that the outstanding contributions will be fully paid up in the year 2000. Should these contributions not be forthcoming in the year 2000, the secretariat will have to draw from the working capital reserve in order to repay the funds borrowed from the overpayments.

Table 2. Expenditures in 1999 by programme

(United States dollars)

Programme	1999 Budget	Actual 1999 expenditure	%	Supplementary Fund
Policy-making organs	42 000	33 089	78.8	0
Executive direction and management	625 000	704 418	112.7	56 082
Substantive support to the COP & its subsidiary bodies	542 000	475 142	87.7	402 243
Facilitation of implementation & coordination	1 384 000	1 214 659	87.8	1 726 144
External Relations & Public Information and NGOs	388 000	325 142	83.8	367 715
Administration and Finance	1 000 500	781 512	78.1	0
Global Mechanism	1 003 000	987 050	98.4	0
Subtotal	**4 984 500**	**4 520 912**	**90.7**	**2 552 184**
Programme support costs*	648 000	503 322	77.7	287 239
Total	5 632 500	5 024 234	89.2	2 839 423
Working capital reserve	467 500	371 765	79.5	382 828
Grand total	**6 100 000**	**5 395 999**	**88.5**	**3 222 251**

* In accordance with the United Nations guidelines (ST/SGB/188, paragraph 47), a 13 per cent programme support factor has been applied to expenditures on all the trust funds except where exemptions have been authorized by the Controller. The amount has been calculated on the basis of the actual expenditures incurred, and debited as a charge to this account and credited to the United Nations.

Table 3. Total expenditure in 1999 by object of expenditure
(United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	1999 Budget	Actual 1999 expenditure	%	Supplementary Fund
Staff costs,	2 940 000	2 361 664	80.3	56 082
consultants and experts	158 000	253 233	160.3	186 433
Travel of participants and representatives	0	31 479	∞	638 011
Travel of staff	355 500	506 134	142.4	89 630
Contractual services	15 000	16 592	110.6	113 452
General operating expenses	464 000	307 480	66.3	0
Hospitality	14 000	5 291	37.8	0
Supplies and material	35 000	52 039	148.7	0
Grants	1 003 000	987 000	98.4	1 468 576
Subtotal	**4 984 500**	**4 520 912**	**90.7**	**2 552 184**
Programme support costs	648 000	503 322	77.7	287 239
Total	**5 632 500**	**5 024 234**	**89.2**	**2 839 423**
Working capital reserve	467 500	371 765	79.5	382 828
Grand total	**6 100 000**	**5 395 999**	**88.5**	**3 222 251**

13. The savings decided upon by the Conference of the Parties were mainly achieved as a result of the higher than normal vacancy rate. Apart from direct savings in salaries and related costs, the high vacancy rate, during the early part of the reporting period, further lowered the implementation level under general operating expenditure. It should be pointed out that the expenditure level under general operating costs is directly linked to the number of staff on-board. This meant that the share of the UNCCD in the costs of the common maintenance and other services in Haus Carstanjen was significantly lower than anticipated.

14. To make further savings under the Core Budget account the secretariat, whenever possible: (a) raised and used voluntary contributions under the Supplementary Fund, the Bonn Fund and the Participation Fund; (b) used the programme support account (see para. 58, below); and (c) imposed a strict control over the use of the Core Budget funds.

15. Tables 2 and 3 indicate that while the overall expenditure level under the Core Budget is 88.5 per cent of the approved budget, actual expenditures were more than indicated in the Programme and Budget 1999 (ICCD/COP(2)/2), as follows:

(a) Consultants and experts: Due to the lengthy recruitment process in the initial part of the year, the secretariat had to hire short-term personnel and consultants to carry out normal staff functions. In addition, the secretariat required expert services to continue raising awareness and facilitate the ratification or accession processes in the affected regions of Europe, Asia and Pacific, North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean;

(b) Travel of staff: Given the relationship between the Convention and other international instruments, there was a need for the secretariat to actively anticipate in meetings of other conventions, United Nations bodies and international organizations. The executive direction and management also had more consultations with government authorities, intergovernmental bodies and other partners on cooperation in the framework of the implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional levels;

(c) Contractual services: Cost of translation services provided to the meeting of the ad hoc panel of experts on traditional knowledge received no supplementary funding and had to be undertaken under the Core Budget;

(d) Supplies and materials: This being the first year of operation of the permanent secretariat, there was limited experience in the level of office supplies required for the whole year. It is therefore expected that future budget submissions will be closer to real needs.

3. Programme delivery

Policy-making organs

Table 4. Expenditure in 1999 for the policy-making organs

(United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	1999 budget	Actual 1999 expenditure	Supplementary Fund
Travel of staff	32 000	29 860	0
Hospitality	10 000	3 229	0
Total	**42 000**	**33 089**	**0**

16. Expenditure under this heading was used to finance travel expenses of five technical Secretariat staff from United Nations Headquarters in New York to Recife, Brazil, to service the third session of the Conference of the Parties and for hospitality costs in connection with that session.

Executive direction and management

Table 5. Expenditure in 1999 for executive direction and management

(United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	1999 budget	Actual 1999 expenditure	Supplementary Fund
Staff costs (1ASG, 1D-1, 1P-3, 2GS)	480 000	474 301	56 082
Consultants and experts	42 000	69 486	0
Travel of participants and representatives		(424)	0
Travel of staff	99 000	158 994	0
Hospitality	4 000	2 061	0
Total	**625 000**	**704 418**	**56 082**

17. Expenditure under this heading totalled US$704,418 (112.7 per cent of the approved budget). The expenditures covered salaries and related costs of the Executive Direction and Management staff, consultants' fees and travel, official travel and hospitality.

18. The executive direction and management staff provided policy guidance based on the COP decisions and coordination of secretariat activities, as well as advice to the bodies of the Convention. In his external relations, the Executive Secretary gave high priority to developing closer cooperation and synergy with activities of other conventions, United Nations bodies and international governmental and non-governmental organizations. The management also ensured that the move of the secretariat from Geneva to Bonn went smoothly and that the recruitment of staff was completed. Awareness and advocacy of desertification issues were also given priority by the Executive Secretary with the aim of widening global support for the Convention. The Convention was acceded to or ratified by 15 new Parties in 1999 bringing the total number of the Parties to 160 by the end of the year. Substantial groundwork was done to ensure that many other developed and developing countries will be joining the UNCCD in the very near future.

Substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies

Table 6. Expenditure in 1999 for substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies

(United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	1999 budget	Actual 1999 expenditure	Supplementary Fund
Staff costs (2P-5, 1P-3, 1P-2, 1GS)	442 000	350 607	0
Consultants and experts	-	41 591	37 204
Travel of participants and representatives	20 000	31 718	110 459
Travel of staff	65 000	40 634	7 080
Contractual services	15 000	10 592	0
Grants to UNEP	0	0	247 500
Total	**542 000**	**475 142**	**402 243**

19. Under the total Core Budget of US$475,142 for the substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, US$350,605 were used for salaries and other staff costs. US$41,591 were spent on the preparation of official COP documents. US$31,718 were used for the travel of representatives to the CST bureau meeting and US$40,634 for travel of staff to scientific workshops and ad hoc panel meetings. A total of US$10,592 was spent for interpretation services during the CST bureau meeting. Support for scientific and technical activities, which came from the Supplementary Fund, amounted to US$402,243.

20. In accordance with decision 24/COP.2, the third session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 3) was held in Recife, Brazil, from 15 to 26 November 1999. Delegations from 129 parties and observers to the Convention as well as seven international organizations participated. COP 3 initiated the review of the implementation of the Convention and considered 43 reports from affected African

country Parties and subregional organizations. The Conference also adopted 23 decisions including the Convention budget for the biennium 2000-2001, the procedure for the review of the implementation of the Convention, the first review of policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, and an initiative towards a declaration of commitments to enhance the implementation of the Convention.

21. Fifty-three pre-session documents were prepared for COP.3. During the two weeks of the meeting, 29 in-session documents were prepared and issued.

22. In parallel with official sessions of the Conference, a two-day meeting of Members of Parliaments was convened from 27 to 29 November 1999, which was attended by 39 Parliamentarians from 29 countries. The declaration of Members of Parliament was noted by the Conference (decision 21/COP.3), and is included in the official report of COP.3 (ICCD/COP(3)/20).

23. During 1999, two meetings of the bureau of the Conference and one meeting of the bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology were convened in Bonn, Germany. Representatives of all regional groups guided the secretariat in preparing a provisional agenda for the third session of the Conference. The two bureaux were constantly kept informed on the secretariat's activities for the facilitation of the implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional levels.

Facilitation of the implementation and coordination of the Convention

Table 7. Expenditures in 1999 to facilitate the implementation of the Convention

(United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	1999 budget	Africa Unit	Asia Unit	LAC/ERPI	NS Mediter unit	Total 1999 Expenditure	Supp. Fund
Staff costs (GS-6, NS-4, NS-5, NS-6)	1 212 000	327 220	340 000	247 000	90 000	1 004 220	0
Consultants and experts	53 000	42 424	16 000	12 000	0	69 574	148 220
Travel of representatives & participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	394 314
Travel of staff	121 000	50 043	51 324	0	1 000	102 796	82 550
Contractual Services							45 476
Grants							1 054 574
Total	**1 384 000**	**421 507**	**431 324**	**259 216**	**102 562**	**1 214 609**	**1 726 144**

24. In 1999, facilitation of the implementation and coordination of the Convention included awareness raising, support to the formulation of action programmes at national, subregional and regional levels and the preparation and planning of national reports to the COP. It should be noted that activities supported by the secretariat were often undertaken in coordination with support from other actors in order to achieve the expected results.

25. Organization of nine national awareness-raising seminars, three subregional meetings, three regional meetings and four regional workshops, two

interregional and three global meetings were supported under the Supplementary Fund. Several other seminars, workshops and meetings related to the Convention, held at national, subregional and regional levels, were facilitated through various subregional, regional and non-governmental institutions. Support was provided on request by some countries to facilitate the implementation process.

26. By the end of 1999, 160 countries had acceded the Convention; 42 African countries had submitted their national reports to the COP. Altogether, 29 national action programmes were finalized in various regions. Three subregional action programmes were launched in the African region and three in the Latin American and the Caribbean region. Six regional thematic programme networks were prepared both in the African and Asian regions. Support was also provided for the functioning of three regional coordination units through extrabudgetary contributions.

28. Through the above-mentioned activities, the Convention has moved from awareness-raising to facilitating the preparation of programmes for combating desertification and seeking to promote partnership arrangements for their timely implementation.

Table 8. Expenditures in 1999 for the facilitation of implementation and coordination in the Africa region

(United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	Core Budget	Supplementary Fund	Total 1999 expenditure
Staff costs (IP-5, IP-4, IP-3, JOS)	325 100	0	325 100
Consultants and experts	42 926	129 601	172 427
Travel of representatives and participants	0	147 826	147 826
Travel of staff	53 581	49 914	103 495
Contractual Services	0	38 475	38 475
Grants	0	764 576	764 576
Total	**421 507**	**1 130 392**	**1 551 899**

27. Under the total Core Budget of US$421,507 for facilitation of implementation and coordination in the Africa region, US$325,100 were used for salaries and other staff costs; US$53,581 were used for travel of staff to national, regional and subregional meetings and US$42,426 for consultants and experts for preparations of national, regional and subregional meetings. Support to the facilitation activities from the Supplementary Fund amounted to US$1,130,392.

28. The secretariat assisted the affected African country Parties in the preparation of their national reports for the third session of the Conference of the Parties. Furthermore, the secretariat facilitated organization of national awareness-raising seminars and national forums to launch or approve national action programmes. Subregional forums for development, and adoption of the subregional action programmes were supported as well as the formulation of transboundary pilot projects for the Maghreb and Sahel regions. At the regional level, the secretariat facilitated the organization of the third African regional Conference and two workshops for the formulation of recommendations on activities of two thematic programme networks. Assistance

was also provided to support activities undertaken by the Regional Coordination Unit.

29. Results of the facilitation activities can be summarized as follows:

(a) By now, all 53 African countries have ratified the Convention. At the national level, countries have made substantial progress in the elaboration of their national action programmes; so far, 23 national action programmes have been finalized and most of them have already been adopted formally by the respective governments. These countries are now consulting their development partners for the negotiation and conclusion of partnership agreements;

(b) Three subregional action programmes have been finalized and the respective subregional institutions have launched the implementation phase of priority activities identified in the SRAPs;

(c) In order to ensure complementarity between the National Action Programmes and the SRAPs, the secretariat has provided support to the competent subregional organizations so as to enable them to provide technical backstopping to their respective member States in the elaboration of their Action Programmes;

(d) The regional African Conference preparatory to COP 4 provided the opportunity for ministers and national focal points to examine in detail the national, subregional and regional reports to be submitted to COP 4. The participants approved various recommendations that were important for the discussions of COP 4;

(e) Support given to facilitate the elaboration of the Regional Action Programme resulted in the designation of the institutional focal points to coordinate the six thematic programme networks, and the launching of the first activities of the RAP towards the end of the year with the full manning of the Regional Coordination Unit.

Table 9. Expenditures in 1999 for the facilitation of implementation and coordination in the Asia region

(United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	Core budget	Supplementary Fund	Total 1999 expenditure
Staff costs (P-5, P-4, P-3, GS)	347 500	0	347 500
Consultants and experts	34 565	11 606	46 171
Travel of representatives and participants	0	90 668	90 668
Travel of staff	51 259	15 928	67 187
Contractual Services		7 000	7 000
Grants		159 402	159 402
Total	**431 324**	**284 604**	**715 928**

30. Under the total Core Budget of US$431,324 for facilitation of implementation and coordination in the Asia region, US$345,500 was for salaries and other staff costs. US$51,259 were for travel of staff to national, subregional and regional meetings. Support to the facilitation activities from the Supplementary Fund amounted to US$284,604.

31. The secretariat facilitated inter alia the organization of four national awareness-raising seminars and supported also several countries in their NAP process. It helped in the organization of an Asian focal points meeting, a launching meeting of the Thematic Programme Network on Monitoring and Assessment and an Afro-Asian workshop on early warning systems in Beijing. The secretariat assisted in the accession process in the region and initiated the national reporting exercise. The Regional Coordination Unit started its activities.

32. Results of the facilitation activities can be summarized as follows:

(a) The national awareness-raising seminars strengthened the role of national coordination bodies and encouraged the development of the national action programmes. Three countries were assisted in preparing their NAPs, bringing the total number of completed NAPs to six;

(b) Three additional countries acceded to the Convention;

(c) Planning of national reporting ensured the timely initial preparation for the elaboration of national reports to be submitted by Asian country parties;

(d) At the regional level, the focal point meeting achieved the following: agreement on common guidelines for national reporting; successful launching of the thematic programme network on monitoring and assessment (TPN1) with follow-up activities in the year 2000; initiation of the preparatory work for the launching in the year 2000 of TPN on Agroforestry and Soil Conservation;

(e) The interregional meeting between Africa and Asia on early warning systems decided upon a series of recommendations for action to promote cooperation in the use of early warning systems in desertification control in the two regions;

(f) Staff in this Unit also provided programme-wide policy support and facilitated the process of the preparation of a new annex for Central and Eastern Europe.

Table 10. Expenditures in 1999 for the facilitation of implementation and coordination in Latin America and the Caribbean region

(United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	Core budget	Supplementary Fund	Total 1999 expenditure
Staff costs (P-5, P-3, GS)	247 033	0	247 033
Consultants and experts	12 183	6 749	18 932
Travel of representatives and participants	0	145 820	145 820
Travel of staff	0	14 077	14 077
Contractual Services	0	0	0
Grants	0	140 600	140 600
Total	**259 216**	**307 245**	**566 461**

33. Under the Core Budget, US$247,033 were used for salaries and other staff costs and US$12,183 for consultancies. Support to the facilitation activities from the Supplementary Fund amounted to US$307,245.

Table 11. Expenditures in 1999 for the facilitation of implementation and coordination in the Northern Mediterranean region

(United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	Core Budget	Supplementary Fund	Total 1999 expenditure
Staff costs (P-4, P-3)	99 626	0	99 626
Consultants and experts	0	1 270	1 270
Travel of representatives and participants	0	0	0
Travel of staff	2 936	1 231	4 167
Contractual Services	0	0	0
Grants	0	0	0
Total	102 562	3 903	106 465

[a]The subprogramme for the Northern Mediterranean region provided secretariat services also for the Office of Executive Direction and Management.

36. Under the Core Budget US$98,606 was used for salaries and other costs and US$3,956 for the travel of staff making a total of US$102 Support to the facilitation activities from the Supplementary Fund amount US$3,903. This programme provided also part-time secretarial services t office of Executive Direction and Management.

37. Facilitation of the implementation of the Convention in the Nor Mediterranean region included participation in the regional focal point ministerial meetings of the Annex IV countries. The secretariat facilitate process of national and the regional action programmes. Results of activities can be summarized as follows:

(a) Technical support given to the elaboration of the national a programmes of Annex IV countries resulted in the adoption of one NA June 1999 and the adoption of the guidelines of another NAP in July 1999. of Reference for the Regional Action Programme were adopted by the reg ministerial meeting in November 1999;

(b) Through regional meetings linkages between the secretariat, nat focal points and other stakeholders were strengthened in order to im cooperation and the exchange of information on matters related to Convention.

External relations and public information and NGOs

Table 12. Expenditures in 1999 for external relations and public informa

(United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	1999 budget	Actual 1999 expenditure	Supplemen Fund
Staff costs (1P-4, 2P-2, 1GS)	323 000	210 657	
Consultants and experts	43 000	52 582	
Travel of participants and representatives	0	184	143
Travel of staff	22 000	61 719	
Contractual services	0	0	67
Grants	0	0	156
Total	388 000	325 142	367

38. Under the Core Budget US$210,657 were used for salaries and other costs and US$52,582 for consultancies and US$61,719 for travel of staff m a total of US$324,958. Travel involved mainly consultations and meetin relevance to the UNCCD process, particularly the governing bodies of Conventions and partner institutions as well as the General Assembly o Uni' Nations. Consultants assisted in drafting technical documents co ing information on synergies with other Conventions and other docu for the COP.

39. External relations and public information activities focused main three issues: inter-agency coordination, cooperation with non-governm organizations and public information.

40. Inter-agency coordination activities included active participatio meetings and regular consultations with key partner agencies supportin

implementation of the Convention. The exchange of memoranda with these partners has also continued.

41. Cooperation with the non-governmental community included support to the organization of NGO meetings, support to NGO participation to the COP and other related meetings, strengthening of outreach and awareness raising capacities and strengthening of institutional capacities.

42. Public information activities included publication of the UNCCD newsletter, re-prints of UNCCD information kits and memorabilia for the third Conference of the Parties. The UNCCD Information System was upgraded in order to entail a more user-oriented Web page.

43. Results of the activities can be summarized as follows:

(a) The secretariat has promoted the strengthening of relationships with the secretariats of other relevant Conventions, international financial institutions and other intergovernmental organizations, and has produced a substantive document on possible synergies;

(b) In various meetings the NGOs have raised awareness of the problems of local communities and of approaches related to desertification and land degradation. At the local level they have a crucial role in promoting grass-root involvement and the application of best practices in the implementation of the Convention.

(c) Educational and public awareness material has promoted and facilitated intersectorial and interregional dialogue as well as raised awareness of the problem of desertification, of its global character, and its interrelation with other environmental issues, in particular with biodiversity and climate change.

Administration and Finance

Table 13. Expenditures in 1999 for administration and finance

(United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	1999 budget	Actual 1999 expenditure	% of expenditure 1999 Budget
Staff costs (IP5, I23, 3GS)	485 000	239 345	49.3
Other personnel-related cost	0	70 516	
Travel of staff	16 500	106 132	643.2
Contractual services	0	6 000	
General operating expenses	464 000	307 480	66.3
Supplies and material	35 000	52 039	148.7
Total	**1 000 500**	**781 512**	**78.1**

44. Under this programme an amount of US$781,512 of the Core Budget were used for salaries and related costs, temporary assistance required by the entire secretariat, administration and finance-related travel and general operating expenses of the UNCCD, i.e. for communications (telephone, fax, postage, pouches), rental and maintenance of UNCCD office premises, supplies and

materials, and rental and maintenance of photocopy and fax equipment. The programme also provided logistical support to travel.

45. Savings under this programme are attributable principally to the lower than projected cost of contribution to joint activities in Haus Carstanjen (e.g. to the costs of security, cleaning, repair and maintenance, utilities, postal and pouch facilities, telephone exchange services and third party insurance). These savings were realized as a result of successful negotiations by the Common Premises Manager to reduce the rates for telecommunication costs in 1999, to the postponement of planned repairs, and to the fact that, in a large part, the charges for the common premises are pro-rated to the number of personnel. Savings were also realized due to the fact that an agreement was reached with the United Nations to use the programme support to meet the salaries and related costs of the Chief of Administration and Finance (P-5) and part of the operating requirements (see paragraph 58 below.).

46. Results of Administration and Finance include:

(a) Improvement of the quality and timely submission of donor reports and establishment of a financial monitoring system to facilitate the process of funds monitoring and reporting;

(b) Successful relocation of the secretariat from Geneva to Bonn ensuring all general services readily available to both internal and external users;

(c) Development of job descriptions and recruitment process of all approved posts;

(d) Development of internal financial and other controls with a view that all resources are properly recorded, controlled and utilized;

(e) Taking over most of the services previously provided by UNOG such as maintaining of personnel data in the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), reviewing, journalising, and payment of travel claims and reviewing, reconciling and preparing of accounting journal vouchers for all UNCCD financial transactions.

Global Mechanism

Table 14. Expenditures in 1999 Global Mechanism

(United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	Proposed 1999 Budget	Actual 1999 Expenditure	% of Expenditure 1999 Budget
Contribution to joint activities	1 003 000	987 000	98.4
Total:	**1 003 000**	**987 000**	**98.4**

47. A total of $987,000 was transferred to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to finance the administrative operations of the Global Mechanism. Table 15 gives details of the utilization of the funds transferred.

48. Details of the Core Budget Administrative Expenses Account of the Global Mechanism in 1999 are given in table 15. The total budget for the year was US$907,974. Of the total budget, 80.4 per cent was utilized and committed

during the year, while an amount of US$178,419 were transferred into the year 2000. The first full year of GM operations was 1999. It was a year of establishing the office and initiating the recruitment of staff. The recruitment of the first two Professional staff posts was delayed compared to the original estimates and is one of the reasons for the savings of the year.

Table 15. Core Budget Administration Account of the Global Mechanism in 1999
(United States dollars)

Expenditures	Budget	Actual expenditures	Per cent	Uncommitted funds transferred to 2000 budget
Staff costs	359 808	321 502	89.3	38 306
Travel	142 000	113 783	80.1	28 217
Consultancy	165 500	141 631	85.6	23 869
General operating expenses	70 982	10 271	14.5	60 711
Supplies and equipment	20 000	20 104	100.5	(104)
Contractual services	89 684	62 264	69.4	27 420
Grants	60 000	60 000	100.0	0
Subtotal	**907 974**	**729 555**	**80.4**	**178 419**
Overhead charges	79 026	79 026	100.0	0
Total	**987 000**	**808 581**	**81.9**	**178 419**

B. Supplementary contribution to Convention-related activities by the host Government (Bonn Fund)

49. A supplementary contribution of DM 1 million ($US542,476) was received from the Host Government for Convention-related activities and events. In addition to this an interest of US$7,187 were earned on the trust fund, therefore bringing the total fund to US$549,663. This contribution was used for the following activities:

Activity	Actual expenditure
Support to the process of accession in eastern and central Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and OECD countries	195 415
Facilitation of flow of information among the key participants in the UNCCD process	64 231
Preparation and organization of CST activities, including those of the Ad Hoc Panel of Experts on Traditional Knowledge	133 640
Workshop on capacity-building and promotion of an enabling environment in the context of the Regional Action Programme to the UNCCD-Harare, Zimbabwe	17 000
Organization of the Second World Mayors' Forum (Bonn 1999)	5 024
Organization of expert group meetings on the Thematic Programme Network in Asia	20 000
Establishment of a regional network on information systems in Latin America and the Caribbean	25 000
Support to the organization of the Second Africa - Latin America and the Caribbean Forum on the implementation of the Convention	29 275
Programme support costs 13 per cent	62 996
Total expenditures	547 581

C. Special Trust Fund for Participation in the Process of UNCCD

Table 16. Status of Special Trust Fund for Participation Expenditure report as of 31 December 1999

(United States dollars)

Income	Amount
Balance brought forward 1998	728 707
Interest savings and prior years adjustments	568 737
Contributions received in 1999	177 221
Interest earned in 1999	20 211
Total income 1999	**1 494 876**

Expenditures	Amount
Bureau Meetings & informal consultations	30 020
Travel of 119 participants to COP 3	934 069
Total direct expenditures	964 089
13 per cent overhead charge	125 332
Total actual 1999 expenditures	**1 089 421**
Unspent balance	**405 455**

50. Participation of eight COP Bureau members in two inter-sessional meetings (Bonn, Germany) was facilitated at a cost of US$30,020. COP and CST Bureau members and 119 participants (US$934,069) participated in the third session of the Conference of the Parties (Recife, Brazil, 15-26 November).

51. Total expenditure under the Participation Fund in 1999 is US$1,089,421 inclusive of programme support costs.

III. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Core Budget

52. Approved staffing table for the secretariat under the 1999 Core Budget comprised 21 posts in the Professional and higher categories and 11 posts in the General Service category.

53. Information on the authorized posts in the secretariat by level and source of funding in 1999 is given in table 17. Apart from one P-5 post (see paragraph 45 above, under Administration and Finance) that was purposely left vacant under the Core Budget but encumbered instead under the Programme Support Account to help achieve the required core savings, all the other posts in table 17 were encumbered partly or fully during the reporting period.

Table 17. UNCCD secretariat posts in 1999 by source of funding

Level	Core Budget			Programme Support		Total filled posts		
	No.	Gender		No.	Gender	No.	Gender	
ASG	1	1M	-	-	-	1	1M	
D-1	1	-	1F	-	-	1		1F
P-5/L-5	6*	4M	1F	1	1F	7	4M	2F
P-4	4	3M	1F	-	-	4	3M	1F
P-3	6	5M	1F	-	-	6	5M	1F
P-2	3	-	3F	-	-	3		3F
Subtotal	21*	13M	7F	1	1F	22*	13M	8F
GS	11	4M	7F	3	3F	14	4M	10F
Total	32*	17M	14F	4	4F	36*	17M	18F

*1 P-5 post left vacant in 1999 as this was subsequently provided for under the Programme Support Account.

54. Of the above 36 CCD staff members on board, the percentage of men to women in the Professional (P) category and above is 61.9 per cent and 38.1 per cent respectively. The percentage of men to women in the P-5 and above category is 62.5 per cent and 37.5 per cent respectively. The secretariat is continuing to do its best to attract qualified women to join the secretariat with a view to attaining the United Nations goal of 50/50 gender distribution.

55. In addition to the 36 staff members, the secretariat staffing was supplemented by: (a) a 12-month non-reimbursable loan of one Professional staff member (P-5) from the World Meteorological Organization; (b) three Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) sponsored by Germany (2) and by Italy (1); and (c) two temporary posts of less than one year's duration each established under

the Bonn Fund to provide substantive support to the process of accession in eastern and central Europe and to the facilitation of the flow of information among the key participants in the UNCCD process. These bring the total secretariat staffing to 42 persons (not including staff members recruited under temporary assistance funding).

56. Information on the geographical distribution of staff members encumbering the Core Budget or Programme Support posts is provided in table 18 below. While the paramount consideration in the appointment of UNCCD staff is the necessity for securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, efforts have to be made to ensure that staff are recruited on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

57. Under the reporting period the aim of the secretariat was to ensure that all approved posts were filled in order for the secretariat to operate at full capacity. While there were delays in the recruitment process during the initial period of the year immediately following the move from Geneva, the occupancy rate as at the end of 1999 stands at 100 per cent.

Table 18. Geographical distribution of staff members under the Core Budget and programme support account in the Professional and above category

Grade	Africa	Asia	Latin America & Caribbean	West Europe & others	Total
ASG	1	-	-	-	1
D-1	-	-	-	1	1
P-5/L-5	1	1	1	3	6
P-4	2	1	-	1	4
P-3	3	1	2	-	6
P-2	1	1	-	1	3
Total	8	4	3	6	21
Percentage of total	38.1	19.0	14.3	28.6	100.0

B. Programme support costs

58. The United Nations issued to the UNCCD secretariat in 1999 an allotment advice totalling US$315,000, which provided for salaries and related costs of one P-5 and three General Service posts (US$287,700); rental and maintenance of equipment (US$4,300) and communication costs (US$23,000). The allotment for these costs was requested in accordance with the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties during its second session. The posts are those of the Chief of the Administration and Finance (P-5), two General Service posts in Administration and Finance, and one Liaison secretary in Geneva. As the UNCCD secretariat has assumed more administrative and financial functions and responsibilities formerly provided by the United Nations, it continues to negotiate for a bigger share of the programme support income earned from the UNCCD trust funds.

IV. WORKING CAPITAL RESERVE

59. The UNCCD Financial Rules (paragraph 9) states that: "Within the General Fund there shall be maintained a working capital reserve at a level to be determined from time to time by the Conference of the Parties by consensus. The purpose of the working capital reserve shall be to ensure the continuity of operations in the event of a temporary shortfall of cash. Drawbacks from the

working capital reserve shall be restored from contributions as soon as possible."

60. At its second session the COP reaffirmed that the working capital reserve maintained within the General Fund shall be set at a level of 8.3 per cent of Core Budget expenditure, including overhead charges. At the end of the reporting period the working capital reserve had the required balance of US$371,765.

Annex I

Status of contributions to the Core Budget as at 31 December 1999

Member States[a]	Assessed Contribution for 1999[b]	Overpayment of 1999 Contributions	Contributions received as of 31-12-1999	Outstanding Contributions receivable as at 31-12-1999
Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the UNCCD (UX)				
Afghanistan[c]	200	-	-	200
Algeria	6 690	9 200	2 510	-
Angola[c]	500	-	-	500
Antigua and Barbuda	150	200	50	-
Argentina	73 060	73 410	350	-
Armenia	790	-	-	790
Austria	67 160	67 460	300	-
Azerbaijan	1 590	-	-	1 590
Bahrain	1 240	1 683	443	-
Bangladesh[c]	500	-	-	500
Barbados	590	1 400	810	-
Belgium	78 660	-	-	78 660
Belize	50	-	-	50
Benin[c]	150	-	-	150
Bolivia	500	-	-	500
Botswana	740	1 800	1 060	-
Brazil	104 890	-	-	104 890
Burkina Faso[c]	150	150	-	-
Burundi[c]	50	-	-	50
Cambodia[c]	50	50	-	-
Cameroon	940	-	-	940
Canada	196 540	197 530	990	-
Cape Verde[c]	150	-	-	150
Central African Republic[c]	50	-	-	50
Chad[c]	50	-	-	50
Chile	9 370	9 370	-	-
China	69 440	69 775	335	-
Colombia	860	-	-	860
Comoros[c]	50	-	-	50
Congo	50	-	-	50
Cook Islands	50	-	-	50
Costa Rica	1 140	-	-	1 140
Côte d'Ivoire	640	-	-	640
Cuba	1 830	-	-	1 830
Democratic Republic of the Congo[c]	500	-	-	500
Denmark	49 320	68 000	18 680	-
Djibouti[c]	50	-	-	50
Dominica	50	-	-	50
Dominican Republic	1 040	-	-	1 040
Ecuador	1 440	-	-	1 440
Egypt	4 660	4 710	50	-

Member States[a]	Assessed Contribution for 1999[b]	Overpayment of 1999 Contributions	Contributions received as of 31-12-1999	Outstanding Contributions receivable as at 31-12-1999
El Salvador	840	-	-	840
Equatorial Guinea[c]	50	-	-	50
Eritrea[c]	50	-	-	50
Ethiopia[c]	450	384	-	66
European Community	123 920	124 700	780	-
Fiji	250	540	310	-
Finland	38 660	38 910	250	-
France	466 630	643 300	176 670	-
Gabon	1 040	-	-	1 040
Gambia[c]	50	-	-	50
Georgia	230	-	-	230
Germany	699 850	706 200	6 350	-
Ghana	500	-	-	500
Greece	25 030	25 300	-	80
Grenada	50	-	-	50
Guatemala	1 290	-	-	1 290
Guinea[c]	200	-	-	200
Guinea-Bissau[c]	50	-	-	50
Guyana	50	-	-	50
Haiti[c]	150	-	-	150
Honduras	200	461	261	-
Hungary	2 140	-	-	2 140
Iceland	2 290	2 280	-	-
India	21 360	21 439	79	-
Indonesia	13 390	13 190	100	-
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	13 790	-	-	13 790
Ireland	15 960	22 000	6 040	-
Israel	24 640	24 730	90	-
Italy	387 620	389 600	1 980	-
Jamaica	450	400	-	50
Japan	1 239 200	1 246 600	7 400	-
Jordan	450	-	-	450
Kazakhstan	4 710	-	-	4 710
Kenya	500	-	-	500
Kiribati	50	-	-	50
Kuwait	9 570	-	-	9 570
Kyrgyzstan	590	-	-	590
Lao People's Democratic Republic[c]	50	-	-	50
Lebanon	1 140	-	-	1 140
Lesotho[c]	150	-	-	150
Liberia[c]	150	-	-	150
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	9 420	-	-	9 420
Luxembourg	4 860	4 910	50	-
Madagascar[c]	230	264	66	-
Malawi[c]	150	200	50	-
Malaysia	12 840	12 940	100	-
Mali[c]	150	-	-	150

Member States[a]	Assessed Contribution for 1999[b]	Overpayment of 1999 Contributions	Contributions received as of 31-12-1999	Outstanding Contributions receivable as at 31-12-1999
Malta	990	970	-	20
Marshall Islands	50	50	-	-
Mauritania[c]	50	100	50	-
Mauritius	640	800	160	-
Mexico	69 890	-	-	69 890
Micronesia	50	-	-	50
Monaco	140	-	-	140
Mongolia	150	-	-	150
Morocco	2 930	4 000	1 080	-
Mozambique[c]	50	-	-	50
Myanmar[c]	500	-	-	500
Namibia	500	550	50	-
Nauru	50	-	-	50
Nepal[c]	250	300	50	-
Netherlands	116 340	116 880	540	-
Nicaragua	50	-	-	50
Niger[c]	150	150	-	-
Nigeria	2 870	-	-	2 870
Niue	50	-	-	50
Norway	43 520	60 000	16 480	-
Oman	3 670	3 670	-	-
Pakistan	4 210	-	-	4 210
Palau[c]	50	100	50	-
Panama	940	1 300	360	-
Paraguay	990	-	-	990
Peru	6 740	9 400	2 660	-
Portugal	29 740	29 890	150	-
Qatar	1 390	-	-	1 390
Republic of Korea	5 910	-	-	5 910
Republic of Moldova	750	-	-	750
Romania	4 760	4 810	50	-
Rwanda[c]	50	-	-	50
Saint Kitts and Nevis	50	-	-	50
Saint Lucia	50	-	-	50
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	50	-	-	50
Samoa[c]	50	-	-	50
San Marino	20	-	-	20
Sao Tome and Principe[c]	50	-	-	50
Saudi Arabia	40 600	-	-	40 600
Senegal	450	-	-	450
Seychelles	150	-	-	150
Sierra Leone[c]	50	-	-	50
Singapore	5 250	-	-	5 250
Solomon Islands[c]	50	-	-	50
South Africa	26 120	36 000	9 880	-
Spain	184 740	254 700	69 960	-
Sri Lanka	700	-	-	700
Sudan[c]	450	-	-	450

Member States*	Assessed Contribution for 1999[b]	Overpayment of 1999 Contributions	Contributions received as of 31-12-1999	Outstanding Contributions receivable as at 31-12-1999
Switzerland	196	200	50	-
Sweden	77 380	104 700	29 320	-
Switzerland	86 690	119 500	32 810	-
Syrian Arab Republic	4 340	4 502	1 740	-
Tajikistan	350	-	-	350
Togo[c]	50	-	-	50
Tonga	50	-	-	50
Tunisia	2 030	2 700	670	-
Turkey	31 380	31 570	190	-
Turkmenistan	590	-	-	590
Tuvalu[c]	50	-	-	50
Uganda	250	-	-	250
United Arab Emirates	12 690	12 716	26	-
United Kingdom	363 190	365 070	1 880	-
United Republic of Tanzania	250	-	-	250
Uruguay	2000	-	-	2 000
Uzbekistan	2430	10 245	7 815	-
Vanuatu[c]	50	-	-	50
Venezuela	12 190	-	-	12 190
Vietnam	500	-	-	500
Yemen[c]	500	-	-	500
Zambia[c]	150	-	-	150
Zimbabwe	440	440	-	-
Total	**4 956 870**	**4 962 259**	**402 125**	**396 736**

Notes:

Total estimated 1999 contributions were up to US$4,956,870 owing to rounding to the nearest US$10.

[a] Actual Parties include States and regional economic integration organizations that are Parties to the Convention as of 31 December 1999.

[b] Assessed 1999 contributions (US$ 4,956,870) are based on the portion of the approved Core Budget for 1998 of US$6,100,000 to be shared between the Parties (decision 9/COP.2, ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1).

[c] Least developed countries.

Annex II

Status of contributions and outstanding pledges to the Supplementary Fund as at 31 December 1999

Donor country/ organization	Contribution (US$)	Outstanding pledges	
		Pledge	US$ equivalent*
Argentina	-	US$ 15,000	15,000
Belgium	57,462	-	
Canada	34,714	-	
Chile	5,000	-	
Denmark	23,000	-	
Finland	175,802		
France	61,164	-	
Germany	-	DM 17,000	8,500
Ireland	10,780	-	
Italy	496,450	Lit 300,000,000	154,160
Japan	1,725,324	-	
Mexico	20,000	-	
Netherlands	25,000	-	
Norway	24,379	-	
Spain	150,444	-	
Sweden	29,880		
Switzerland	439,243		
United Kingdom	30,000	-	
United States of America	50,000	US$ 110,000	110,000
IEPF	42,996	-	
IFAD	80,000	US$ 140,000	140,000
OAU	100,000		
UNEP	207,500	US$ 92,500	92,500
WMO	42,574	Sw F 18,744	12,194
Total	**3761 348**		**647 214**

Notes:

IEPF = Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie
IFAD = International Fund for Agricultural Development
OAU = Organization of African Unity
UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme
WMO = World Meteorological Organization

* At the official United Nations exchange rate for the month of December 1999.

Annex III

Status of contributions to the Special Trust Fund for Participation in the Process of UNCCD as at 31 December 1999

Donor country/ organization	Contribution (US$)	Outstanding pledges	
		Pledge	US$ equivalent*
Canada	32 831	CAD 5,000	3 329
France		FF 750 000	113 004
Qatar	75 000		
Norway	69 390		
Total	177 221	-	116 334

*At the official United Nations operational rate for the month of December 1999.

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PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

(c) PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CONVENTION'S TRUST FUNDS IN 1999

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

Corrigendum

Paragraph 26, followed by 1st paragraph 28

For

26. By the end of 1999, 160 countries had acceded the Convention; 42 African countries had submitted their national reports to the COP. Altogether, 29 national action programmes were finalized in various regions. Three subregional action programmes were launched in the African region and three in the Latin American and the Caribbean region. Six regional thematic programme networks were prepared both in the African and Asian regions. Support was also provided for the functioning of three regional coordination units through extrabudgetary contributions.

28. Through the above-mentioned activities, the Convention has moved from awareness-raising to facilitating the preparation of programmes for combating desertification and seeking to promote partnership arrangements for their timely implementation.

Combine the two paragraphs, which should read

26. By the end of 1999, 160 countries had acceded the Convention; 42 African countries had submitted their national reports to the COP. Altogether, 29 national action programmes were finalized in various regions. Three subregional action programmes were launched in the African region and three in the Latin American and the Caribbean region. Six regional thematic programme networks were prepared both in the African and Asian regions. Support was also provided for the functioning of three regional coordination units through extrabudgetary contributions. Through the above-mentioned activities, the Convention has moved from awareness-raising to facilitating the preparation of programmes for combating desertification and seeking to promote partnership

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PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

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Note by the secretariat

Addendum

Corrigendum

Annex I, pages 24-25

The third and fourth headings should read:

Contributions received as of 31-12-1999	Overpayment of 1999 contributions

GE.00-70581